reply will be allowed ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each. Standing Order No. 59 requires notice of every motion to be given to the Secretay two clear days before the day on which the Demand comes up for consideration. Late motions will not be accepted. It will facilitate business if Honourable Members giving notice of token motions will also specify the purpose underlying the proposed cut.

In calculating the number of hours to be allotted for the voting of Demands, I propose to lay down the following procedure. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours will be treated as one full day and two hours as a half day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of Demands for Grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any particular Demand, but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more Demands.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT : I have received a motion for the adjournment of the House. The motion reads thus:—"I beg leave to move that the business of the House be adjourned for discussing the action of the Government in introducing from the 1st Chingom 1110 many new toll gates on public roads in the State without paying due consideration to the prevailing economic depression."

I have considered that gentleman's motion very carefully, and it was possible to rule it out of order, under sub-clause 4 of rule 21 of the rules, which says that the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given, on the ground that this question first deserves to be discussed in the course of the Demand under the Public Works; but still, in view of the fact that there may not be perhaps a certainty when the motion may come into a definite form in which it is sought to be discussed before the House on the allotted day I am prepared to allow the motion.

Has the House any objection?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I object to it.

PRESIDENT : Are there any members in favour?

The motion fell through for want of support.

PRESIDENT : The House will now proceed to the general discussion of the Budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, it is a matter for congratulation that Sir. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar has settled that thorny question of purchase of the Shencotta—Quilon Railway. Now we are not concerned to purchase the line. Purchase the line we must; but

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we can do so by paying the British Government later the cost for the construction of the line from Shencotta to Quilon. And this we can do conveniently. And at the same time we can utilise the sinking fund that has been set apart for that purpose—a sum which amounts to Rs. 69 lakhs—for immediate and better purposes in the State. The proposal for starting of Rubber Factory is an excellent idea which would result in the development of our local industries. It would to a very great extent alleviate the difficulties that the rubber cultivators have been experiencing in the State. The site selected for putting up the factory is an excellent one. Then about the management that has been left to Mr. N. S. T. Chari, Manager of the Travancore Sugars Ltd. That was also a very good idea because during the course of the last 7 months' working he has succeeded to get for us a profit of about Rs. 70,000. The experiment he has undertaken to manufacture sugar out of cocoanut jaggery also is a good idea. It would also relieve the people of the State who live mainly upon the income they get from cocoanut from the effects of the economic depression.

Then, Sir, the punishment that has been meted out to the Deputy Director of Public Instruction is a thing that deserves the hearty congratulation of the House. I mean, as a sort of punishment he has been reverted to his old place of Principalship. I have my serious doubts, Sir, whether that punishment would amount to a deterrent punishment, whether that punishment would be effective so far as the future evil actions of the Government servants are concerned (*Hear, hear.*) It was a case of defalcation or misappropriation of college funds. Sir, we have seen Proverthicars and Accountants—poor paid servants of Government—when found in short of a few rupees in the collection of taxes are immediately handed over to the Police, cases are being filed against them, they are being charge-sheeted, tried and convicted and sent to prison. Here is an instance when a responsible public servant not doing his duty satisfactorily or misbehaving in a very serious degree is allowed to continue to serve the State in his own way and according to his own fashion.

Then coming to the appointment of the Deputy Director, the Deputy Director's place was created for the purpose of having a particular man in that place.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether the Report of the Education Committee says so?

PRESIDENT: No Committee can say that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The Committee recommended that a person having administrative experience should be appointed as the Deputy Director. But unfortunately the Director did not find his way to appoint such a person and to see that his recommendation was given effect to in the real sense. For various reasons only known to the Director himself, he recommended the appointment of Mr. Chandrasekharan as the Deputy Director. Anyhow, he has gone. The Deputy

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Director misbehaved in the capacity of the Principal. This is no reason why the post of Deputy Director shall be abolished. In view of the heavy work to be done by the Director of Public Instruction and the heavy expenditure amounting to Rs. 47 lakhs which the Government have to incur, it is highly necessary that a person with administrative experience shall be appointed as the Deputy Director or the Personal Assistant to the Director. This is in consonance with the recommendation of the Education Committee. Moreover, there is also the Provident Fund created by the Department that has accumulated to one lakh of rupees. There is at present no competent person, apart from the Deputy Director, in the Director's office to look after the management of that fund. And that fund has been largely contributed by poor paid Vernacular School teachers; and in the absence of a proper person to attend to that function, this post of a Deputy Director should not be abolished. Of course I am not particular about the name and designation with which he is saddled.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know from the member whether this House has recommended the abolition of the Deputy Director?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nelumangad*): I have been against the appointment of Mr. Chandrasekharan, who has no administrative experience, as Deputy Director of Public Instruction when he was appointed, because it was against the nature of the recommendation of the Education Reform Committee.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether it is his opinion that the present Director of Public Instruction is not able to cope with his duties without the aid of a Deputy Director?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nelumangad*): Yes, Sir, that is what I mean. The person who is to be appointed as the Deputy Director should be in a position to exercise control over the finances and officers of the Department: and he should in no way be lower in status than a Division Inspector. What I mean is that he should be a person who has got administrative experience and who shall be senior in rank amongst the Division Inspectors; and he should be in a position to control and help the Director in his multifarious duties.

It does not mean that a proper person to relieve the heavy and onerous duties and multifarious works of the Director of Public Instruction should not be appointed.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member the grounds upon which the appointment of the Deputy Director was desired by the Report of the Education Committee?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The grounds upon which the appointment of the Deputy Director was desired were the same upon which the appointment of Inspectors was desired by the Report of the Committee. The Inspectors were given separate Divisions to relieve the multifarious duties of the Director of Public Instruction and similarly

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the Committee recommended, rather suggested, the appointment of the Deputy Director. The Committee's Report clearly suggested that the Deputy Director shall be a man of administrative experience in the department and his salary shall never go above Rs. 600.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is the member aware that it was for the purpose of training the Deputy Director to become a full-blown Director that this post was created?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): It was desired on that ground also. My suggestion was before this that the Deputy Director ought to have been a seniormost officer from the administrative side of the department. He must be in the office so that whenever the Director goes on leave he shall be there to look after the Director's work as well in the office.

MR. K. R. ELANKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is the member aware that the provision made is less than the pay of the seniormost Inspector?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There is another suggestion more, Sir. One Inspectress and at the same time another Assistant Inspectress for the inspection and supervision of the Vernacular Middle and High schools for girls are superfluous. The Inspectors for the boys' schools can very well supervise the Vernacular schools for girls and *vice versa*. At present the Assistant Inspectors could not inspect any Vernacular Middle and High schools for girls. One Inspectress or Assistant Inspectress can very well conduct inspection work in English schools as well as the Vernacular High schools for girls. If theAssistant Inspectors—males as well as females—employed as such could inspect Vernacular Middle Schools for Boys and Vernacular Primary Schools for Girls, I do not know what objection there is for permitting them to inspect Vernacular Middle Schools for Girls as well. Moreover, we are permitted to employ both male and female teachers, without regard whether the school be a Boys' school or a Girls' school. I do not understand the rhyme or the reason which influenced the Director of Public Instruction to make such a recommendation in the matter of inspection of Vernacular Middle Schools for Girls. What I suggest is that the one Division Inspector's place can very well be abolished or converted to that of the Deputy Director. The post of Assistant Inspectress can well be abolished. The Chief Inspectress shall be converted into a Division Inspector.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from the member his views on the budget?

PRESIDENT: He wants all these changes to be made in the budget.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from the member whether there is any other consideration, apart from the consideration of economy and retrenchment that would lead the Government to abolish the post of Inspectress?

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I suggest the abolition of the Assistant to the Inspectress, as she is like a Personal Assistant. For economy it is enough to promote the Personal Assistant in the Director's Office to the Inspector's grade and for the matter of retrenchment, there is a real profit to be gained by doing away with the post of the Personal Assistant to the Inspectress.

PRESIDENT : There are only two minutes at your disposal.

MR. S J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The Financial Secretary has been very optimistic and for his spirit of optimism, I congratulate him. As for the facts, I think he pursues an Ostrich-like policy. His contention of a surplus Budget is a delusion. It is a *mirage*. I understand that there will be a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd in the Budget Estimate for 1110. In the first page of the Preliminary Budget, we find that he expected a revenue of Rs. 232·93 lakhs. The revised Budget estimate of expenditure for 1109 is Rs. 237·77 lakhs. Thus we understand that there is the probability of a deficit of about Rs. 5 lakhs. For 1110 he has anticipated a revenue of Rs. 232 lakhs and odd and an expenditure of Rs. 230 lakhs and odd, thus leaving a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs and 60 thousand. In the speech of the Financial Secretary, he has clearly admitted that the economic depression which has been correctly described as unprecedented alike in its extent, its duration and its intensity, still persists. In the face of this admission, I do not know how the Financial Secretary has succeeded in manipulating the accounts in such a manner as to make us understand that there would be only an expenditure of Rs. 230 lakhs and odd for the coming year and that there would be a surplus. So far as the provisions of allotment for the various departments are concerned, in the Industrial Department, the Budget Estimate is Rs. 1 lakh and odd. Further, out of that, only Rs. 13,422 is allotted for industrial development. This, I submit, is a bad feature so far as the interests of the people and the State are concerned. It is essential that the Government must try to revolutionise the industrial development of the country in order to minimise the difficulties of the people. Travancore is composed of agriculturists; and in order to relieve the indebtedness of the peasants and the agricultural population, it is essential that factories should be started and more money allotted towards the development of industry in the State.

Then, Sir, from the speech of the Financial Secretary, as well as from the Budget, we see the creation of some novel appointments and novel departments such as the State Guests Department and the Directress of State Guests as well as the importation of a Geography teacher. I understand that there is one Mr. K. M. Joseph who is employed in the Education Department of the State who has got the best qualifications not only in the Madras Presidency but even in the whole of the Indian Empire so far as methods of Georgraphy teaching are concerned. Why cannot his services be utilised for the purpose of giving a series of lectures to the teachers employed in the various schools in the State? I understand that the text-book prescribed for Geography is the one written by him.

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PRESIDENT. I have to rule that the Honourable Member has exceeded his time. When can the Member finish his speech?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Two minutes more, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I hope not *more than* two minutes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir. So far as the Revenue Department is concerned, we find no provision for the remission of taxes for the poor suffering people of Travancore. Last year we recommended 25 per cent. reduction in taxes, and fortunately for us the Government reduced 12 1/2 per cent. of the taxes on wet lands. But our request is that remission of taxes should be granted for the wet as well as the dry lands alike, because people who hold wet lands as well as dry lands suffer equally. The expenditure that is provided for, during the course of the next year and for years to come for the purpose of improvements to the State Guests Department to the extent of Rs. 30 thousand and odd, is a recurring waste. The policy of construction and the improvement of the avenue roads in Trivandrum city ought to be amended to a very great extent. There are 500 and odd prisoners in the Central Jail. I understand from the Administration Report of the Central Prison and also from other authorities that the life of the prisoners inside the Central Prison is very happy. The condition of the people outside is far worse.

PRESIDENT: Then why not go inside? (*Laughter*)

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I am not speaking of the advisability of going inside or waiting outside, Sir. These criminals are kept there, Sir, without making them to do sufficient work. Sufficient work in the shape of hard labour should be given to these prisoners. The Central Prison must be made self-supporting. Why not the labour be utilised for the construction of roads in the State, at least in the matter of construction of the costly avenue roads in the city, instead of wasting the public funds for the purpose and at the same time killing, nay, sacrificing, the interests of the mofussil people? We have been crying for roads in the rural areas and no sufficient provision has been made in the Budget for the coming year.

PRESIDENT: Let us leave aside the enviable lot of the prisoners and all that. Other members should be allowed to speak.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for the surplus budget at a time of such economic depression which, in his own words is unprecedented alike in its extent, its duration, and its intensity, still persists. Before making a few observations on the Budget, "I wish to refer to some suggestions which the Government took into consideration which were made on the floor of this House on previous occasions. They are the abolition of the post of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, the post of the Vice-Principal of the Training College, of the two Deputy Darbar Physicians, and the Experimental Tannery at Karamanai

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and the amalgamation of the Government Press, the Stationery and the Central Printing Offices. Then there are certain new items of expenditure which the Government have made in the direction of improving the economic condition of the State. It is gratifying to note the opening of a Rubber Factory and the inauguration of the State Life Insurance Scheme to benefit the general public. The appointment of a Trade Agent in Bombay and the opening of a Sales Depot there also are gratifying indeed. The proposal to open a paper mill at Alwaye or at Thattakad as a result of the opening of the Pallivasal—Nariamangalam road and the accessability of the forest area from where we get *cetta* for pulp manufacture will also be welcomed by the people. The joining in of the Imperial Council of Agriculture by the State also deserves congratulation. Then there is the deputation of a candidate to Calcutta for studying statistical methods. That is quite necessary in these progressive days. Apart from all these, I wish to refer to page 7 of the Financial Secretary's speech where he says that "the present economic situation has been taken into consideration, to the extent possible, in framing the next year's estimates of receipts and expenditure." Sir, under Land Revenue, I wish to say that the present economic situation has not been fully taken into consideration. The pages of the Government Gazette will bear ample testimony to show the extent of lands sold away for arrears of land revenue. And I hear that Government have very recently issued a circular that hereafter Government Notifications with regard to the sale of lands for arrears of land revenue should not be published in the Gazette. If it is true, I strongly protest against that method.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Does not the member think that, if such a procedure is adopted, it will help people outside to think that everything is very prosperous in this country?

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): Yes, certainly.

In other items such as Ayacut revenue, *Kudisika*, Sanchayam revenue and others, there is an appreciable fall of revenue. The method adopted for the realisation of revenue is very severe. The pages of the Administration Report for the year 1103 are very clear on the point. I wish to quote a few statements. The demand notices issued in 1106 is 5 lakhs; in 1107, 6 lakhs and in 1108, 7 lakhs. Attachment notices are 16,000 in 1106, in 1107, 22,000 and in 1108, 22,000, and sales about 3,000 in 1106, 4,000 in 1107, and 6,000 in 1108. Sir, the rural indebtedness of the State has been brought to the notice of Government by the Banking Enquiry Committee, which lays down the figure as 25 crores, the Economic Depression Committee as Rs. 40 crores and the Census Report of 1931 as Rs. 20 crores. There is no remedy suggested anywhere in the Budget speech of the Financial Secretary to relieve this indebtedness. Sir, in the last Budget Session of this Assembly we passed a resolution to the effect that 25 per cent. of the tax should be given as remission. But only 12½ per cent. was sanctioned by the Government and that on wet lands only. Now also Government are trying to collect the arrears of the land revenue without helping the poor ryots who are in terrible misery.

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[Mr. T. K. Alexander.]

Under the Excise Department, I would make a few observations. That Department has been criticised as top-heavy. We see more controlling and supervising officers whereas we want more preventive and detective officers. The Retrenchment Committee recommended the abolition of the Devicolam Division. There are only a few shops which are farmed out to one single contractor and the collection is in a lump sum. So, that may be well abolished. The predecessor of the present Commissioner, Mr. Gomathinayagom Pillai, recommended that that Division may be abolished, when the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road is opened. But that also is not considered by the Government. Then there is the question of the separation of the Customs from the Excise. That matter has been brought to the notice of the Government by Mr. K. C. Karunakaran and others last time; but nothing has been done in that direction too. About Rs. 500 is the pay of the present Port Officer and that pay is only given to the heads of minor departments. We have got a very increasing Customs work due to the development of the Cochin Harbour but the Customs is not separated from the Excise. Then a word about the Abkari policy of the Government. The drink evil was attacked by the members of this House and the general public ever since 1074. In the year 1074, Government assured us in these words :

"The object of the Abkari Department is, it should be borne in mind, no less moral than fiscal. It is more in the interest of public morality than of public revenue."

But in spite of this assurance and declaration of policy, we find that more shops are being opened and greater number of trees allowed to be tapped.

Then, a word about salt. We have got about 472 acres of pans from where salt could be manufactured. But we get down large quantity of salt from Bombay and Tinnevelly. Here we should manufacture salt not only for our own consumption but even for export. But that line of action has also not been taken into consideration by the Department.

Then, Sir, about the abolition of the export duty on cocoanut products. A resolution was passed to that effect. But nothing has been done except the mention made by the Financial Secretary that the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member whether a resolution to that effect was passed in this House?

PRESIDENT : Does not the member know whether a resolution was passed in this House?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I do not think that such a resolution was passed. That is why I asked the question.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*) : But nothing has been done till now in that direction. No step is taken for the cultivation of

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tobacco in this country. We get down large quantity of Jaffna tobacco when we have every facility for cultivating tobacco.

Sir, why not stop the tobacco coming from Ceylon when we are threatened by them by the dumping of cocoanuts and thus ruining our cocoanut cultivation and thus making the lot of the cocoanut cultivators very miserable and helpless.

Then, Sir, previously in the Legislative Council there was a resolution passed to the effect that foreigners should not be retained while there are available competent people to serve the State honourably; but you see now ever so many men coming and occupying the official chairs. Now the Director of Public Instruction wants a foreigner for giving a course of lectures in Geography from Madras. He is either ignorant of one competent and well-qualified hand in the Department or purposely does not want to take his services. He is the author of a very excellent text on Geography which the Director of Public Instruction has himself recommended for the High School classes. Then, Sir, I could not understand the present position taken by him in requiring the service of one out-sider. I emphatically protest against such a system of recruitment in the department.

Then, Sir, under Forest, I wish to make these observations. Provision is made also for the deputation of two students for training in the Forest College at Coimbatore. Sir, Government do not consider whether candidates are forthcoming without taxing on the Government resources to go and study in the Forest College. While there are people who will study at their own expense for Forest training course, what is the necessity for deputing students at Government expense?

Then, Sir, under Medical, I wish to make this observation. Last time I myself moved a cut motion to the effect that sufficient amounts should be utilised for dispensaries in rural areas where medical relief is not obtainable properly, but nothing is done in that direction also and we see something is wrong with that department. Sir, in the last Session out of one hour of question time 40 minutes were taken for interpellation about the treatment given to patients who visit the Women and Children's Hospital at Thycaud; but the authorities did not take into the serious consideration this Assembly because we see in the papers that similar things were repeated again. Two students from Model School were taken for treatment, but they were not treated carefully and another woman went for treatment but she was refused admission. It was published in the paper and if anybody challenges that statement I will prove it.

PRESIDENT: Well, the honourable member is exceeding his time.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): Sir, two minutes

About the Industrial Department, I wish to make a few observations. Sir, in the year 1925, a resolution was moved in the Legislative Council-but it was lost by a narrow majority-for taking into consideration the appointment of a committee to make a survey of cottage and factory

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[Mr. T. K. Alexander.]

industries. Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the intensive village economic survey conducted by Dr. Harold Mann in Bombay or Dr. Gilbert Slater in Madras or Mr. Kesava Iyengar in Hyderabad or of the Board of Economic Enquiry in the Punjab. If enquiry is conducted here also on that line, that would help the Government to know the wealth and indebtedness of the general people of the State.

Then under P. W. D, Sir, I wish to make a few remarks. Last year I myself moved a cut motion to bring to the notice of the Government that the policy pursued by the Department is inconsistent, indefinite and not constructive. Allotments are very small when compared with the necessity of the times for proper use of communication. Sir, in the year 1104 an amount of Rs. 16·22 lakhs and odd was budgetted for original works under communication. But this year we see only Rs. 3·62 lakhs has been budgetted under that head in spite of the fact that we have got a Road Development Fund. Then, Sir, we have got at our disposal about Rs. 70 lakhs from the Railway Sinking Fund which will freely be utilized for other works like the Kottarakara-Ernakulam Railway or the opening of the paper mill at Alwaye or the opening of a Railway line from Nagercoil to Trivandrum which could be undertaken and thus relieve the economic depression of the State.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : Sir, I am afraid I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary on the Budget he has presented to the House. As a desperate measure to make both ends meet, the Budget perhaps deserves congratulation, but not otherwise. If the Government had taken into consideration the permanent and abiding interest of the peasantry of Travancore, if only they had taken note of the great economic depression and the unprecedented economic crisis facing the country and if they were alive to the abnormal fall in the value of agricultural produce of Travancore since the last many years, such a budget would not have been presented. I am sorry to state that there is not even a gesture of generosity. The Government seem to ignore the very seriousness of the situation. The Government perhaps, the official benches, might turn round and say "Well, non-officials, what can we do. We cannot help it, it is a desperate situation. We have to run the machinery. We cannot find sufficient funds for nation-building departments at this critical situation." Well, if we go back to the Budgets of the past years we see that there has not been a systematic and constructive policy on the part of the Government. When there were 20 and 25 lakhs of rupees as surplus, the Government without taking into consideration the attendant circumstances launched into so many schemes and we have now the pitiable spectacle of so many incomplete works practically given up. In Travancore, when there is a clear deficit, the official benches reply that there are no funds available even for absolute necessity. That is because there had not been that foresight, that patriotism and statesmanship as guiding factors in the formation of the annual budget. I scanned with painful

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anxiety and interest the pages of the budget to see whether the helpless position in which the peasantry of Travancore is placed today has been at least in a small measure realised by the official benches. I am sorry to observe the Government are callous to the sufferings of the people and I say this deliberately. Of course, if I had the option, I would be happy to congratulate the Government and to be with the official members because members on this side of the House thoroughly realise that we have to co-operate with them in the administration of the State. But it is a sad sight indeed to see that the suffering of the peasantry of Travancore has not in the least been realised by the official benches. The Financial Secretary is desperate and he has appropriated even ear-marked funds : and even reserves have been freely drawn upon to make a balanced budget. When once the Financial Secretary violated the principles of orthodox finances, he could have ear-marked a few lakhs to alleviate the sufferings of the peasantry as well. The Shencotta Railway Sinking Fund has been taken over to the general fund ; a few lakhs have been taken from that and the rest has been kept of course for the reproductive work of the Hydro Electric Scheme. The wisdom of the diversion of this Fund itself is questionable. Well, that is a work that will bring some gain and advantage to North Travancore and it is a good piece of work and this side of the House congratulates Government for having launched upon that. But the peasantry has to be helped. Why not take some amount from that ? Government have not cared to do so. I do not deny the fact that there are certain welcome features in the budget. The possibility of starting a paper industry at Alwaye or Thattakad, provision to train an officer in up-to-date statistics, the partial acceptance at least of the Education Reforms Committee proposals, the belated recognition of the urgent necessity for taking up the Alleppey Pier works, the abolition of the Deputy Durbar Physicians' posts and the Deputy Director's place, these are welcome features of the budget. But there is the other, the dark side of the picture. Even after the inauguration of the reformed Council, the thoroughly irresponsible nature of the official mind has not undergone a change to the better. We have been trying to force the hands of the Government so that the excise duty on cocoanut produce must go. We have cried hoarse that the artificial tariff valuation that has been fixed by Government on the cocoanut products should be revised in the interests of the peasantry of Travancore. The other question that was agitating the public mind of Travancore was the Temple-Entry Committee's Report—that has been suppressed by Government and it has not seen the light of day. We have got so many Committees, so many reports which have not yet been acted upon. It has been strongly urged from the non-official side that the tariff and customs side as it is, is going to adversely affect the permanent interest of Travancore and an expert officer should be appointed and that excise and customs should be separated. That has not been paid attention to. This important question which intimately affects the permanent interest of Travancore has been either indefinitely postponed or it has been receiving only indifferent treatment at the hands of the Government.

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[Mr. Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon]

The other question which I wish to stress upon is this. The Dewan President, while he was on a circuit to Shertala as a result of the representations made to him promised that something tangible should come out of the urgent representation of the Travancore Durbar to the British Government regarding the importation of the Ceylon copra, I mean the dumping of Ceylon copra into our country, and it has been given out in the papers that the Government have made strong representations to the Government of India and that they have been sending reminders. But they have not cared to pursue the matter to its final end.

My submission to this House is that that matter being a very serious one, which is a question of life and death to the peasantry of Travancore it should not left there halfway. Why not allot four or five lakhs of rupees for propaganda and effective organisation work in finding out new markets either in the British Empire or outside as is done by the enterprising Ceylon Government? Why not give a minimum relief to the peasantry of Travancore by a free distribution of loans and substantial remission of tax? Again why not organise on co-operative basis markets for the food produce and cocoanut produce of the State? After all, this ostrich policy on the part of Government, if pursued, will ultimately land Government in deep waters. The major portion of the State income is derived from the cocoanut produce and is the contribution of the Travancore peasant.

A very substantial portion of the State income is being consumed by a costly machinery of Government officials, unfortunately non-Travancoreans, at the top. High-paid officials are imported from outside to be at the top with ill-paid subordinates at the bottom. Let us examine it for a moment. Is it worth while to import such high-paid officers? Every Department of the State is said to be highly corrupt. Many of the officials never escape unscathed from this remark. If that be a charge levelled against any in particular, Government will turn round and tell me "bring out your proof". As for that matter, Sir, I can well say that even the Deputy President of this August Assembly has not got so much power and prestige as an Excise Inspector or Police Inspector in a mofussil station (*Hear, hear.*) How can we adduce evidence to show the carelessness or corruption of an officer? If you can appoint a vigilance committee in collecting secret information regarding the conduct of officials, I assure the Government benches that the purity of the administration of the country can be restored.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether the members of the vigilance committee will be paid officers?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I am not concerned with that.

One rather shrewed litigant who has absolutely no knowledge of English told me in my constituency the other day "Well Sir, we have

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got a lot of officials but the official I like best is the Agricultural Inspector because he has the least scope for corruption."

I was surprised the other day at the shrewd answer given to me by a non-English knowing villager. In the Alleppey Vakil's Office, a shrewd litigant was telling me, when I told him that it was not worth the while to file an appeal, "there was no knowing what your High Court has turned out to be. We find in the Law Reports rulings for every unexpected legal position. So I might as well try my chance".

From the shrewd remarks we can understand what is the impression of the ordinary man regarding our High Court. To make matters worse, the principle of communal representation has substantially helped to deteriorate the efficiency of our public service. Personally I do not care to whom goes the appointment in the Judiciary. At least let us have efficient judicial officers who know that a competitive examination is fixed to test the efficiency of Munsiffs, who at least know how to draft a plaint, how to frame issues and how to write correct judgment. After all some kind of remuneration should be given to the hard pressed tax-payer for the fees amount that the official benches take from him.

We do not want communal representation. Let us have honest, well-paid and efficient judicial officers at least. That is with regard to judicial officers. I have actually seen Police Constables increasing as much as they could afford the income of the sister Department of Excise in both Alleppey and Shertala towns. This is a standing disgrace to the Department and to the whole State Service. Why should the servants of officials be promoted as Constables and the poor people ill-treated? It is high time that a thorough overhauling of the public service is made. I had personally requested the Police Commissioner, who is a permanent official and who had been brought down from British India, to go and inspect my constituency thrice. Sir, he says, "my hands are too full with the large policies of the department and there are subordinate officers who would go and inquire into such matters". If his hands are so full with the policies of the Department as to leave the discipline and purity of the Department to his subordinates, he might as well resign and go back. If the representations from this side of the House are not going to improve matters, I do not know where we are to represent and to whom? Well, Sir, the only point I stress strongly is the case of the poor peasantry who suffer very much and I suppose we have a right to expect something for the money paid to the State Exchequer by way of tax. I may confidently assert that there is no real confidence in the majority of the officials of the State. The situation is their own making. Their arrogance and aloofness are the real causes. If we go to the mofussil, we see officials forming their own club and they have contempt for the ordinary citizen.

PRESIDENT : I am afraid your time is up.

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MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : The Budget, Sir, certainly justifies the statement of the Financial Secretary that the present financial position of the Government is unquestionably sound. But then that by itself is no consolation to the tax-payer. We have been expecting the Government to come forward with some constructive programme to ameliorate the sufferings of the land-holders who are hard hit by the economic depression. But there is no such programme in the Budget. The agriculturists of the State who form the bulk of the population are suffering heavily by the low price of commodities on the one hand and on the other by their ever-increasing indebtedness. I do not accuse Government for the situation that has arisen. But the fact is that they are actually suffering by these two factors, *viz.*, the low prices on the one hand, and increasing indebtedness on the other. My complaint is that the Government have not done everything they could to ease the situation. I might be asked what the Government could have done. Now there is the institution of the State Land Mortgage Bank in Travancore. This was started, I believe, in 1107, the nucleus of the working capital being a donation of a lakh of rupees by His Highness the Maha Raja. The Government have also been making small advances every year towards the working capital for distribution among the applicants. As it is, the Government charges a rate of 5½ per cent. interest on the amount advanced to the Bank. The Bank itself is charging 7½ per cent. till the end of this year and 6½ per cent. from the next year onwards on advances that it makes to persons. The Rule is that only Rs. 3,000 should be given as the maximum amount of each loan ; and it is only for clearing already existing prior encumbrances that the loans are advanced. If only the Rules are so changed as to enable the funds of the State Land Mortgage Bank to flow more easily into the remotest villages in the State, there will be a solution, to a large extent, at any rate, of the problem of agricultural indebtedness. I would explain how that could be done. In the first place, branches of the State Land Mortgage Bank should be established in other mofussil centres like Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Alwaye and Parur. Small Committees of local officials and non-officials might be appointed in each centre so as to expedite the disposal of loan applications. The maximum amount of a loan advanced may be increased to Rs. 10,000 from Rs. 3,000. Further, to clear all *bona fide* and existing debts, whether secured or not, Government should advance money as loan. It is not very difficult to get the necessary capital at present for working out this scheme. As my friend who spoke just before me remarked, there is a sum of 60 lakhs of rupees which could be diverted from the Railway sinking fund and Government might also float a loan. I can assure Government that a loan issued at the rate of 4½ per cent. or 5 per cent. income tax free as in the sister State of Cochin, would be oversubscribed in no time. As a matter of fact the capitalists are not finding good investments for their moneys. On Government securities the capitalist will readily advance money at 4½ per cent. interest. Even the secured creditors who may now be getting 12 per cent. interest will be willing to exchange their claims for gilt-edged securities earning

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much smaller interest and becoming due 30 or 40 years later. If such a thing is done by Government at this time, it would ease the situation of the agriculturists and the problem of agricultural indebtedness to a very large extent will disappear. The Government also need not be under the impression that all these properties might have to be purchased by the Government itself, for co-operative institutions are sure to arise in course of time in all these places; and the co-operative societies will carry on the business of each branch. A good co-operative institution solvent enough to take over the business of a branch could be safely entrusted by the Government with the business. Such societies are sure to arise and till that time, till such Societies do arise and actually take the business, if only Government would allow the indebted agriculturists to get Government money at a low rate of interest, that would be a solution of the problem. My submission is that instead of Rs. 3 lakhs allowed for this year, Government ought have allowed at least Rs. 50 lakhs for the State Land Mortgage Bank as there are already funds available by the diversion of Railway sinking funds; and if those funds are not available, why not Government come forward with a loan to be subscribed by the people of Travancore?

Let us turn to the other aspect of the problem, the low price of commodities. Government are not certainly responsible in any way for that. But the Government could help the people here also. The export duty on cocoanut products should be abolished. If export duties are abolished, we could better the prices for our products. And then about tariffs. As a matter of fact, we have got artificial tariffs now. For instance, the tariff value on cocoanut products is much more than their present market value. Still the Government are safisfied with the mere statement that the question is still only engaging their attention. Nothing has been done although this question was being agitated by the people for more than ten years. Similarly with regard to pepper. In the case of such articles which are mainly exported from this country, if the export duty is abolished, the agriculturists will get some relief.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I wish to say a few words on the Budget. Before I do so, permit me, Sir, to make an observation on the position of the members of the Legislature. The position of the members of this Assembly is considered to be very high, and that of the Deputy President, apart from personalities, is even higher. And that fact has been evidenced by the numerous addresses which were presented to him by various bodies, in different parts of the State soon after his election as Deputy President. I want to say that what actuated Mr. Padmanabha Menon's observations, was, not that the members of this House have no position, but that their position is not adequately recognised by the officers of Government. I fear, Sir, there is some little exaggeration in the statement that officers have no regard for non-officials. If the officers do not have any regard for the non-officials, the non-officials will not have any regard for the officials, tit for tat being the rule. I do not think any officer, in these

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai]

days, can be guilty of showing an attitude of disrespect to a non-official. Any non-official, if he is a man of independence and self-respect, must resent it. Therefore, Sir, to my mind, any complaint about the treatment of non-officials by officials does not arise.

Coming to the Budget, I must say that the Budget has considerable virtues. It has some defects as well; for, we do not, in these days of financial stringency, expect anything like perfection in a Budget. But I must take strong exception to the attitude of mind of the framers of the Budget in not adverting sufficiently to the condition of the poor people of this country in these days of serious economic depression. (*Hear, hear.*) Government have often expressed their solicitude for the welfare of the people. That has been repeated. That has been reiterated. But, Sir, a close study of the Budget will show that, notwithstanding the various promises made to us, notwithstanding the various blandishments and invitations to a happy valley in the future where we shall have no manner of troubles, there is very little evidence of actual constructive work to alleviate the distress of the people. Sir, in every issue of the Gazette, I find—I hear that practice has been stopped. I do not know if it is true—several pages devoted to the publication of names of defaulters, defaulters in the payment of dues to the Sirkar. I know many of these persons whose names have been published in the Gazette. My friend, Mr. Damodaran Asan, once showed me a list which I scanned carefully. In that list I found the names of many well-to-do persons belonging to middle Travancore. Their names find a place in that wonderful document. I am certainly not against the Government taking steps for the realisation of their dues. Attach lands as an extreme measure; sell them as a last resort. But, when you sell them, a difficulty which has not been thought of often arises. The average size of a holding in Travancore—I am sure the Chief Secretary will endorse my statement, because he has great experience of agriculture in the State—the average size is less than fifty cents. There are holdings which are much smaller. In South Travancore, there is what is called the *Oodukoor* tenure under which a person may get, as his share, one-sixteenth of the yield of a tamarind tree from a branch which shoots north-west. I am not using any figure of speech, Sir. In these circumstances, if the portion of a holding, two cents in area, is proclaimed for sale, nobody will come forward to purchase it. And if it is sold at all, the price will be much less than its actual value; because, by itself, it will be of little use to the purchaser. It will also detract from the value of the large parcel of land of which it is a portion. While, therefore, maintaining that Government must have funds, while maintaining also that necessary action may have to be taken against defaulters, I wish such action is taken with some sympathy for the owners of the holdings. If only the Tahsildars and Peishkars will move freely with the people, as was the practice in the past, and persuade them to pay, I am sure there will be no necessity to sell even small holdings for paltry sums

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due to Government. The main complaint against the officers of Government is due to the fact that almost every rule or order, issued by Government for the good of the agriculturists, is being cruelly, wantonly, violated by their officers. In 1062, the Peishkars were asked to move with the people. The Tahsildar was asked, in 1063, to stay at least four days in every locality hevisited. Travelling is much easier now. Long distances can easily be covered in a comparatively short time as these are days of motor cars. But, what is the use of travelling extensively and visiting place after place, if the officers are going to violate definite rules issued by Government, if the officers are not going to move freely with the people and find out their real needs, if the officers are not going to sympathise with the poor people who form the bulk of the population? I have occasionally seen Dewan Peishkars visiting places where no Dewan Peishkar will ordinarily set his foot. I do not want to mention names. And they do not visit places where such visit would be of use to the people. The result is that the people do not get any relief in their distress. Sir, the Dewan is the most important officer in the State and, naturally, therefore, the title 'Dewan Peishkar' necessarily imparts very high status to that officer. But, in the way in which the Peishkars do their work, their usefulness to the people suffers considerably.

I wish next to say that the policy of the Travancore Government, for several years past, for many decades, has been one of drift.

I am not using the expression as a rhetorical device. I say 'drift' because it is drift and nothing else. I use the expression most deliberately and in the discharge of my duty to this House. Let us, for instance, take the case of the Forest Department. Their working plans were prepared after great expenditure of money and labour. But those plans have been systematically violated. In the Police Department, again, at one time, Circle Inspectors were appointed. They have since been abolished. In the Industries Department, there have been a number of factories – jaggery, screwpine and so on—including a tannery. We have very often protested against the way in which things were being done; but no heed was paid to our protests. At last, most of these institutions have been abolished. In the Excise Department again, some years ago a new set of officers were created, called Excise Sub-Inspectors, not for any purpose of efficiency but only for purposes of patronage. The Excise Commissioner could not appoint Excise Inspectors without Government sanction, he therefore wanted a type of officers whom he could appoint himself. (*Hear, hear.*) That is more or less the line adopted by the various departments. I would therefore like to impress upon Government the necessity for taking stock of the long list of mistakes committed by the Government in previous decades. Money had been wasted in buying a Traction engine for Rs. 50,000 or so, for one Department. Money has been wasted in the Government's vacillation in regard to the Shertala-

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Alleppey road and the Shertala-Alleppey Canal. Sir, we have to pay for all those mistakes and *our* decendants will have to pay. It is a sacred duty that the Travancore Government have to consider these matters seriously. I maintain that the officers must be made to do their duty. Seniority ought not to be the sole claim for promotion. There are men of character and ability in the service. They must be encouraged.

Then, with regard to communal partiality, I wish to say a word. I am of the opinion that every community must have its chance to serve the Government and the people. But the Government is concerned more with individuals than with communities. Still, if any particular community wants to advocate the claims of its members, all justice must be shown to them. But, if a person comes to Government for service on the communal ticket, if then his or her community puts forth organised agitation before Government and even goes to the extent of saying that they will do this or that if any particular person belonging to their community is not promoted or that they will resent the action of Government if he is subjected to disciplinary measures, such an attitude on the part of particular communities must be discouraged. Of all forms of corruption communal partiality is the worst. (*Hear, hear.*) Any officer guilty of that must be removed immediately. I am one of those who think that any officer who is found to be guilty of any kind of crime or of gross inefficiency must be dealt with as severely as possible so that it may be a warning to others in service.

While maintaining that officers should do better and that good work on their part should be encouraged, I wish to say a word in regard to the importation of people, called 'foreigners', from outside. I have no glamour for foreigners. But I am not going to be ungrateful to those foreigners who have come down to Travancore and done much for the uplift of this country. (*Hear, hear.*) There are, even now, some foreigners in our service. They have come, they have been brought down here; and some of them are doing their work well. My non-official friends here, so far as I understand, are not concerning themselves with the gentlemen who have now been brought in or with those who were here in the past, but only with regard to the future; and that is a very important matter. Sir, we have colleges here which are as efficient as any college in the world. We have got a high standard in women's education as well. Still, for the higher offices, foreigners are sought to be imported. Sir, that is certainly a sad reflection on the conditions here. Therefore, while recognising the very great work which foreigners have done in the past and are doing now for the good of Travancore, I maintain that, hereafter, as far as possible, officers must not be imported from outside, unless under extraordinary circumstances. If any importation is necessary, Travancoreans now outside must be chosen for appointments here as far as possible; or some intelligent officers from the Huzur or from the Executive departments may be chosen and sent

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up for suitable training elsewhere so that, when the time comes, they will be available for the discharge of responsible duties.

Sir, inefficiency is the prominent characteristic of most of the departments. I am very sorry I have to say that. And there is inefficiency even in places where it ought not to be for a moment. For example, let us take the High Court.

PRESIDENT: Is it likely that you will take a long time more?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Three or four minutes more, Sir.

I am not going to cast any reflections on the judgments though much may be said in that connection; but I must say, that there is dilatoriness in the conduct of work in the High Court.

That is because the judges interest themselves too much in matters of patronage, appointing peons, duffadars, and copyists. (*Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar*: *Munsiffs*). Munsiffs are very much bigger persons. Sir, as a vakil, I know—and there are other people also here, who know—that much wrangling goes on at the time of appointing even the smallest servants. To wrangle about appointments of peons and perhaps of copyists or to hear appeals presented by a sweeper woman who was fined Rs. 2, or a peon who was suspended for 15 days is too small a matter for all the judges of the High Court sitting together.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether it is the nature of the case or the person who files the appeal that ought to weigh in deciding appeals?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): The amount is important. So is the nature of the case.

One point more, and that is about the appointment of Sirkar Vakils. Government must appoint only good Vakils as Sirkar Vakils. Recently I heard that the Dewan had a talk with a vakil and was personally satisfied before he was appointed Sirkar Vakil. That is a very good thing. Now, once a Sirkar Vakil is entertained in the service, he thinks he is safe and he continues to be a fixture. There is no use in having these fixtures. Let them be tried for some time and changed if necessary, periodically as it is done in British India. Some of the present Sirkar Vakils do not even care to study the law and are poor specimens indeed. If the administration of justice is so inefficient, what should I say about the other departments? Justice is the bulwark of administration, and the greatest asset of Travancore; and we have been looked up to by the people outside as a remarkably fortunate people in this matter. Sir, the Judicial Department needs looking into. Sir, the Government has a duty to make itself efficient. We are not without the material. There are very many intelligent men, hard working and of high character available in our State. There are some in the service of Government. We are not able to get the best from them because they have been subjected to the bleak freezings of neglect.

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The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1·3 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKER (*Shertala II*) : Sir, I must congratulate the Financial Secretary for the clever way in which he has manipulated figures in the Budget. I should extremely thank first of all Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer in assisting the Financial Secretary to present a surplus budget in this Assembly. Even in the opening speech introducing the budget for the year, the Financial Secretary has stated that the country is passing through an economic depression. It reads thus :—

> "The economic depression which has been correctly described as unprecedented alike in its extent, its duration and its intensity still persists. Commodity prices, subject to minor recoveries, *i. e*, in tea and rubber, still remain low. The present economic situation has been taken into consideration, to the extent possible, in framing the next year's estimates of receipts and expenditure."

He has been able to present a surplus budget before this Assembly

Sir, the grave problems arising out of the economic depression and the fall in the demand for the staple commodities of the State is a matter which seems to have gone out of the attention of the framers of this budget. This problem relates not merely to the difficulties sufferred by the yeoman but also his land-lords. They are undergoing very many great difficulties to find means for bearing out their very existence. Government, I regret to note, it seems, are hardly conscious of the fact that the country is passing through an economic depression. Members on this side of the House were repeatedly bringing to the attention of the Government the desirability, the necessity of remitting at least a portion of the land tax. Last year this time this Assembly passed a resolution that 25 per cent. of the land tax, an all round cut of 25 per cent. of the revenues should be effected. Instead of making some provision for that very generous recommendation, Government thought it fit only to remit $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of land tax on wet lands alone.

In another session of the Assembly, the members on this side of the House brought to the notice of the Government that on account of the unprecedented fall in the coconut product, the export duty on coconut products should be abolished. The tariff value now existing should be revised so as to be appropriate to the market value on coconut product. The Financial Secretary has been pleased to state, that the matter of revising the tariff value to be appropriate with the market value is engaging the earnest attention of Government. How long it will take for Government to give it a decision one way or the other nobody knows, and it may not give at all. So it is just on my part to remind the Government that it is on the prosperity of the agriculturist depends the prosperity of the State. The question was engaging the attention of Government for some time past and I remember some provision was made in the budget for the appointment of a Trade Agent in foreign countries, so that markets may be explored and marketing facilitated to the agricultural products of Travancore. Afte

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some time that idea seems to have been dropped. Then Sales Depots were opened first at Ootacamund and recently at Bombay. What useful purpose these are going to serve for the products of the agricultural commodities of the State nobody knows. About the Trade Agent at Bombay the appointment seems to be of one who is a Bombay man and who knows nothing of the Travancore commodities and products. What useful purpose is going to be served by appointing such a man in Bombay? In my opinion that is a bare waste of expense. Instead of that now that the British Government have thought it fit to appoint a central marketing authority to find out suitable markets for Indian products, I think it very wise to depute one of its able officers to get himself trained in this field and to make a marketing survey of the Travancore products. Instead of showing any such constructive programme for the amelioration of the suffering agriculturists of the country the Government thought it fit to present a surplus budget. It is not for want of funds that the Government are not bringing in a surplus budget but it is for the statesmanship and policy of the State. The Government thought it fit to draw out the Sinking Fund to show a surplus budget. And I wonder why Government thought that it is not incumbent to purchase the Quilon-Shencotta Railway when we find it easier to do so. This fund is one which can be utilised only at the time of a very urgent necessity. And if you are to draw upon such a fund even at this earlier stage of economic depression, I do not know what we will be doing at a later stage.

And in the expenditure side of the budget we find that a considerable portion of this money is utilised for the emoluments of highly paid officers. They are not alike in public service and they even boast that they do not deserve what is said of them. They at times encourage communalism to their own good and to the good of the community to which they belong. If such a man is to be at the head of the department, I fear justice can be done only to some of the communities and not to the others.

Not to say much upon these aspects of the question I would once again call attention of the Government to ameliorate the condition of the agriculturists in the land.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know whether the member has any constructive scheme to suggest?

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKER (*Shertala II*): After listening to my speech, I think the Financial Secretary has no room for asking such a question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I thought you had finished your speech Mr. Krishna Panicker.

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MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKER (*Shertala II*): I said that a competent officer may be deputed to get trained under the central marketing authority now opened by British India so that after he returns he might be employed to find out suitable markets and to make a market survey for the sale of the Travancore commodities. That I hope is a constructive suggestion—at least in the absence of a better suggestion in the speech on the budget.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether he will be able to give any constructive suggestion if he is asked to prepare a budget?

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKER (*Shertala II*): I will be able to make half a dozen schemes if I am entrusted with that work.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Speaking on behalf of a very small constituency, *viz.*, the Commerce and Industry (South), I should like to view the speech of the Financial Secretary and the Budget from purely a financial standpoint. The question which I am going to deal with at the present moment is' "are we financially sound"? That is the most important question. The strength of any Government. I mean the financial strength of any Government' depends upon its borrowing capacity and not upon its capacity to spend; specifically, whether it has got the power to borrow at any given time. Judging things that way, what we have got to see is whether this Government could borrow any amount which it requires for any specific purpose. For instance, the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme is a Scheme which ought to have been undertaken—if it were guided by the recommendations of the Banking Enquiry Committee—only by means of debentures. This Scheme was started, if I am not mistaken, only after the recommendation by the Banking Enquiry Committee was made and that is also the practice everywhere. Apart from that, it has been the universal practice in finance to undertake Municipal enterprises only by means of Municipal debentures. If that had been attempted in Trivandrum, for instance, the Willingdon Water Works would have been attempted by means of Municipal debentures. So also in the case of Chackai-Tampanur Railway Extension in Trivandrum and the Electric Schemes in Trivandrum and Quilon. These were ventures which ought to have been undertaken only by loans either from the public of Travancore or from outside. I am perfectly well aware that in the case of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway the debenture policy way attempted and failed and the Government were perhaps wise in not going in for further debentures for the simple reason that that floatation was a successful affair and the debentures were not even placed on the market.

Now that shows that all the moneys which came to be spent upon these schemes came to be taken out of the public revenues. It will go to show that it was on account of over-taxation these moneys came to be invested in these schemes. People were taxed mercilessly. The question now is, "will a debenture for this purpose have been successful

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at the present time"? No; the noteworthy experiment which was tried with reference to Quilon-Trivandrum Railway ebenture showed it was a failure.

Speaking as a member for Commerce, that which concerns my constituency most is the state of banking in this country. Let us find out who exactly have made the greatest investments in banking, Travancoreans or outsiders. That will reveal how there is not that much of capital available in this country as banking demands or that that capital is fighting shy. That shows, at any rate therefore if we are to trace the financial history of the State from 1092 onwards when the Quilon-Trivandrum debenture was started, people in Travancore were not sure of the stability of the finances in the country. It will be found that only outsiders have been caring to invest money in banking ventures in Travancore. The point to be noted at the present moment is with regard to the Travancore Government. It has got Savings Bank business and also it invites deposits from the people. Now it is just a Banker like any other Commercial Bank. Today the State Aided Bank is an anachronism when we are dealing with the Central Bank or the Reserve Bank or the Federal Bank by whatever name called and thus any aid given by the Government to any Bank, State-aided or not, will be of absolutely no use to banking. An important thing to remember is what exactly is the aid which Government is rendering to Banking institutions in general in this country. There is absolutely no aid whatsoever. I am aware that two or three Banks in the State are carrying on their operations outside in several places in British India and they are doing it without any assistance whatsoever from the Government. Of course all encouragement must be given to them. As regards the Joint Stock Banking if anything calamitous were to happen even as regards the existing Banks, it will be disgraceful not only to the people of this country but to the Government as well, upon the financial stablity of the Government lies the stablity of the Banking in the State. The Government is the Bankers' Bank.

The next thing which has to be noticed, Sir, is with reference to the world-wide economic depression which we are now meeting with almost everywhere during the last five years.

This Depression started in October 1929 on account of the failure of the Banks in the U. S. A. And that failure was due to the fact that the banks there speculated upon their local industries, their own trades. When the crash came, they called in money from the European countries where they had made large investments. When the European countries were unable to meet the demand upon them, they became bankrupt. That is the long and short of the whole story. When these banks in Europe and America, both Central and Federal, were becoming bankrupt, they got in all the available gold and sunk them deep. That is the policy now generally adopted by these Central banks. They sink their gold underground.

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Therefore, if I may be permitted to offer any advice to the Financial Secretary, what he ought to have done is to have taken the whole amount of the Railway Sinking Fund, convert it into gold, dig up a hole in the Huzur Treasury, safely bury the gold there and sit upon it like a ghost. That will surely add much to the credit of the State. The officer who attended the Wembley Exhibition said in his report that Travancore has no banking credit in London. We are a back number so far as banking is concerned. Therefore even accepting what the Financial Secretary has stated with regard to the Railway Sinking Fund and even accepting the interpretation now given to the agreement with the British Government as regards that Railway as correct, legally and financially, the present decision of the British Government was foreseen by the statesman who started this Fund. Sir P. Rajagopalachari who, everybody will admit, could see through a brick wall as anybody else—Sir P. Rajagopalachari foresaw that the Travancore Government would be bound to take up the Railway after paying up the British Government. So he started the Sinking fund. And he was not a man to be fooled by anybody. And it was not because he did not know what the law was with regard to the contract; but he deemed that a situation might arise in 1945, when this Sinking Fund might be useful.

Therefore the first thing that the Financial Secretary ought to have done is to thank the memory of Sir P. Rajagopalachari for the windfall that he has obtained now. This 70 lakhs of rupees is money squeezed out of the taxpayer and he has not given that money to anybody. It is the people's still. (*Hear hear*).

It was admitted that the economic depression has hit the people hard. Why can't we utilise this fund to alleviate the distress of the people? It is a case of absolute distress in the case of agriculturists. It looks as though, on hearing the Financial Secretary, there is no economic depression at all. We are to go on as we did last year. My submisssion is that the Financial Secretary ought to have made up his mind to do something more courageous, beneficial and useful. I regret, therefore, I cannot congratulate him upon the Budget which he has presented.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): I am sure that very few will disagree with me when I say that apparently the budget for 1110 is a highly consoling document. With the present economic depression and our ears deafened as it were by the cries of stringency, indebtedness, poverty, unemployment, and a host of other unpleasant sounds, there cannot be a more pleasing surprise than this budget with its constant surpluses and the steadly accumulating capital. The Government deserves our warmest congratulations and thanks for assuring us that our present financial position is unquestionably sound. But before believing it, it is worth while to spend a few minutes to examine how far the budget before us bears testimony to that financial soundness.

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Turning to the actuals for 1108, we find that the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 6·91 lakhs. The appropriation report, page 9, says "With the continuance of the retrenchments which commenced from 1107, the ordinary transactions of Government for the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 6·91 lakhs". Again on page 12 of the same publication, the following passage occurs: "It was in the subsequent year (1105) that the effect of the prevailing depression began to be felt in our finances and as the prospect of restoration to normal conditions did not seem bright, the expenditure was rigorously controlled. The result of this careful husbanding of resources is evidenced by the fact that the year 1108 closed with a surplus of Rs. 6·91 lakhs against a nominal surplus of Rs. 0·38 of a lakh only during the previous year". Thus we find the Government repeatedly blandishing this wonderful 6·91 lakhs of rupees as a phenomenal proof of their expert economy and self sacrificing retrenchment. It is quite natural that they do so. For a surplus of about 7 lakhs is actually an economic achievement in this age of depression and when we remember that the budget estimates anticipated a surplus of only Rs. 1·15 lakhs, the achievement becomes all the more wonderful. But what about the receipts? It has increased by Rs. 11·63 lakhs. Simple arithmetic says that if the Government had at least as much economy as not to outstep the limits of the budgeted expenditure the actual surplus should have been Rs. 12·78 lakhs. Then, surprised, we turn to the expenditure and find that it has swollen by Rs. 5·87 lakhs. So if this unexpected wind had not fallen, the careful husbanding of resources would have ended in a deficit of Rs. 4·72 lakhs. I confess that a retrenchment that results in increasing the expenditure and effecting a deficit is one that I fail to appreciate.

Nor do I find any reason to be optimistic about the general course of the finance of the State. First of all, it has to be said that the nominal surplus at the end of 1107 much more reliably indicates the actual state of affairs than the much boasted Rs. 6·91 lakhs at the end of 1108 as has been subsequently proved beyond doubt by the deficit at the end of 1109 according to the revised estimates. Further, if we examine the finances from 1104, which year they say marks the turning point, to the end of 1107 we find that the receipts have fallen by 31·88 lakhs, whereas the expenditure has been reduced by only 8·90 lakhs. Thus the fall in receipts is 23 lakhs more than the reduction in expenditure. Even if we compare 1104 with the figures of the victorious 1108, we find that the receipts have fallen by 16·34 lakhs while the expenditure has increased by 0·11 lakhs. Finally if we compare 1104 with 1109 we find the receipts falling by 18 lakhs and the expenditure rising by 10 lakhs, making a total difference of 28 lakhs. I do not know if this is what financial experts mean by 'rigorous controlling of expenditure' and 'careful husbanding of resources'. But a rise in expenditure and a fall in revenue do not appeal to the ordinary

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commonsense as a very reliable sign of financial stability and of a sane and safe economic policy.

Turning once again to the third item in budget, let us examine the closing balance. The closing balance for 1109 according to the budget estimates was only 96·15 lakhs. But in the revised estimates it has come up to 118·93 lakhs and the estimate for 1110 is 117·14 lakhs. One naturally wonders how such a big variation happened between the budget estimates and the revised estimates for 1109 and what unforeseen blessing has visited our beloved State. But after all this is a piece of pure magic, in this instance not even financial magic but a simple literary magic. Government have simply called a huge item in capital expenditure by the newly invented name of 'Investment on Reproductive works.' If this change in nomenclature had not been effected, the closing balance at the end of 1110 would not have been 117·14 lakhs but the moderate sum of 74·32 lakhs or about 43 lakhs less than what it is presented to be. One fine morning the Secretary gets up with a financial inspiration, draws a red line across a word, writes another word instead and the Travancore Government have added 43 lakhs of rupees to the capital!

Similar instances can be multiplied. But these are quite sufficient to show that the sentence that 'our present financial position is unquestionably sound' is absolutely wrong and dangerously misleading and the budget before us is the biggest financial 'camouflage' (*Hear, hear*).

But I do not wonder at it; because the thirst of the Government seems to be of an all consuming nature. However much and however fast receipts increase, the unlimited elasticity of the expending capacity closely follows it. In 1106 a deficit of 12·23 lakhs, the first during many years, gave them a rude shock and they had their heads straight for a few days. As a result, though the receipts for 1107 were about 8 lakhs less than in 1106, the Government, by a desperate struggle, managed to close the year with at least a nominal surplus. But in 1108 the unexpected wind fell; and they with all the avaricious anxiety of a hungry glutton swallowed 5·76 lakhs more than the budget estimates. In 1109 though the budget estimates of receipts stood at 10·75 lakhs above the actuals for 1107 the budget was so prepared as to leave only a surplus of ·83 lakhs. Now, in the revised estimates even this nominal surplus has disappeared and in its place appears a huge deficit.

I do not say that I am sorry for that. Speaking about the last year's Budget, I said that this is the time when Government should empty their coffers for nation-building enterprises so as to supply labour and means of livelihood to the unemployed and ensure the permanent prosperity of the country. If the Government's madness for expenditure ran in that direction, the people would have thanked them and shed tears of happiness. But they do not do it. The huge expenditure is not primarily meant for the benefit of the public at large

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but it is silently and secretly flowing to fill the pockets of a few blessed individuals. These few individuals, the high controlling and directing officers of the State, require the whole of their time to take proper care of their own pockets so that they find it practically impossible to remember the people. The very first question I sent to the Assembly after I became a member was about the floods of 1108. It was a simple question. I had asked the total loss estimated to have been caused by the floods, the total amount spent by Government towards relief and the total sum spent by way of travelling allowances in connection with the floods. I have been repeatedly sending the same question and it has been repeatedly lapsing. It has already lapsed thrice, and I have no doubt it will lapse a fourth time. The simple fact is that they do not know the loss the people have suffered, they have not spent any sum for relief worth mentioning side by side with the huge loss incurred by the people and even that small sum has been most probably completely consumed by travelling allowances.

Again, if we turn to the budget before us and compare the budget estimate and revised estimate for 1109, we find that almost every item in the principal heads of revenue has fallen. But there is one grand exception, an exception so grim that it has escaped particular mention in the Memorandum. I mean the land revenue. The Budget estimate for 1109 was 36·10 lakhs. But in the Budget session we passed two motions recommending a 25 per cent. remission in the Ayacut land revenue and our benign Government graciously condescended to sacrifice 12½ per cent. of the tax on wet lands. In the last session in reply to one of my questions the Land Revenue Commissioner told us that the sum so remitted was 2·22 lakhs. Thus practically the budget estimate for 1109 was 33·88 lakhs, but the revised estimate stands at 36·55 lakhs. The receipts have gone higher by 2·67 lakhs. In other words, when the people are suffering the bitterest pangs of poverty, the Government have squeezed from them 2·67 lakhs more than what they themselves had anticipated. What wonder if the Government Gazette became unusually heavy? What wonder if pages and pages of it were grotesquelly filled with notifications of sale of lands? What wonder if Government became ashamed of themselves and have issued orders that in future lands may be sold without notification? Sir, I cannot think of a clearer proof for the most heartless manner in which Government have exacted their one pound of flesh.

I know the Government could not but to do so for the fact is that just now, at this time of all times, they are indulging in a revelry of appointments and a festival of salaries. It is many months since the Retrenchment Committee submitted their reports. Out of the 14 lakhs recommended for retrenchment, Government found it possible to accept only the recommendations about 3 lakhs. But we had expected that they would have at least avoided all further fresh lavishness. But

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[Mr. Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai.]

what have they done? They have answered the Committee with a series of record-breaking appointments. As if with a vengeance they have changed most of the high officers and found the costliest possible substitutes, the Durbar Physician, the Chief Engineer, the Director of Public Instruction, the Police Commissioner and the Dewan himself. Now, as if still unsatisfied with this glorious galaxy, they are engaged in inventing a series of new posts to bless the retired officials. I have nothing to speak against any of the newly appointed gentlemen. They are all great men. But, Sir, unfortunately our country is a small country, too small to accommodate so many great men at the same time. So either these Himalayan personalities must shrink themselves down to dimensions not unmanageable to us or we must forego their services, however valuable they may be, and must pull on as best as we could with our own men.

One thing is sure that this festival of salaries cannot continue long. A ruthless retrenchment of salaries and determined diversion of the resources to the nation-building channels alone can save the country from the rocks. But the misfortune is that this has to be done by those that would suffer most. In other words it depends upon the sacrificing spirit of our highest officials. It must begin from the top. The Dewan will find it impossible to effect any retrenchment anywhere in any direction unless he begins it with himself, unless he gives himself, what I might figuratively call, a suicidal cut. I need not say that the Dewan of Travancore with a monthly salary of four thousand rupees is nothing but a breathing negation of retrenchment.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, our actions are to be judged more by our intentions than by our achivements. Judged by this standard, there is much upon which Government have to be congratulated. To be impartial, some of the undertakings launched upon by Government were done with the best of intentions and for the betterment of the condition of the people. It has been complained that there are large number of officers whose pay is or was unheard of in Travancore before. I for myself can see that payment is the highest for the best service and if any mistake is committed in choosing the person the intention is not to be blamed. If therefore the Government thought it fit to engage a Politicial and Constitutional Advisor on Rs. 6,000, a Dewan on Rs. 4,000, a Director of Public Instruction on Rs. 3,000, a Commissioner of Police on Rs. 1,800, a Chief Engineer on the same scale, a Durbar Physician on the same scale, I believe it must have been done with the best of intention in order that the people of the State might get the best services. I can very well understand the gigantic venture in inaugurating the Hydro Electric Scheme at Pallivasal. I can understand the legal implications of the policy of the establishment of a Power House at Quilon. I can understand the Government establishing a rubber factory. I can with equal clearness understand that Government have spent so much money or perhaps intend to spend so much money for the porpose of

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setting up an Asylum for incurables. I can understand that various other proposals, undertaken in addition to all that I have mentioned, were undertaken with the best of intentions. But from a point of view of finance, the question is whether they are after all commendable. These undertakings, big ventures, necessarily involve large expenditure and a policy on these lines once adopted and acted upon must be a policy which has come to stay. If Travancore has a Dewan on Rs. 4,000 today I am quite certain that when the next appointment comes Travancore will not be in a position to think of an officer on a lesser pay. We have been observing clearly how from stage to stage this rise in salaries was affecting our coffers. It is equally certain, Sir, that investment if it brings out a good return is an investment which could not be grudged. But time alone will tell us whether these investments are good or bad until the results are realised, we are in a position only to think about the good intentions of the Government in launching the scheme. But it must be distinctly understood that at the time these expenses were being increased, Government have never tried or attempted to reduce the cost of establishment that was being incurred by them in other respects. I may refer to one or two matters which ought to have engaged the attention of Government much earlier. When the Retranchment Committee had submitted its proposals and made demands for the abolition of certain posts and for effecting of savings, Government said they would consider that and I understand that the Standardisation Officer has been appointed to put forward certain proposals. The Financial Secretary now calmly says that proposals of the Retrenchment Committee for effecting of savings to the extent of nearly 4 lakhs will be considered and given effect to in a short time. I understand that that is a statment contained in the Standardisation Officer's report. If that report Sir, is as good as any other report submitted by a Government official, I am sure the net result will be an enhancement of the pay of the high paid officers and reduction of the pay of low paid officers. That cannot be a retrenchment on the lines, suggested by the Retrenchment Committee. Instead of abolishing posts as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, Government have been creating posts. When the Retrenchment Committee made big proposals Government accepted only paltry recommendations which in their turn were undone when they created new posts in the name of reorganisation. When the Retrenchment Committee strongly recommended that a cut in the salary of officers should be effected and when every civilized country in the world with religious fervour accepted the policy, the Travancore Government looked at it with awe amounting superstition. Not even the increment of the pay of these officers was suspended during the time of this economic depression. The Financial Secretary says that since the coming in of the depression Government were making or rather trying to balance their budget as much as possible. If the

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[Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai.]

Financial Secretary's speech contains any statement which could be called substantially correct, if that standard of correctness is expected in the Financial Secretary's speech, Sir, there is only one statement which I can see as being correct. That is at page 6 of his printed speech where he says "the economic depression which has been correctly described as unprecedented alike in its extent, its duration and its intensity, still persists." Sir, a truer statement cannot be made by a Government officer, and to that extent, Sir, and upon that point alone, I would heartly congratulate the Financial Secretary. Assuming that it is true, how were the Government trying to meet the expenditure for paying all these high paid officers, for laying out money on these large schemes or costly schemes established or that have been newly created, without effecting a cut in salaries, without even suspending the increment of officers. The Government manage to collect its own money when the economic depression was so keen and intense. They first raised the duty on salt and next raised the cost on Anchal service. Even the Excise Commissioner was not idle during this period. By a clever alteration of the rules under the tobacco and customs regulations, a new system of taxation was devised by the establishment of an all Travancore licensing of beedi trade and beedi manufacture, regardless of the hardship of hundreds of manufactures, traders and consumers. High tariff values were maintained for a high level collection under export duty. The bus traffic industry still struggling for its existence was sapped of its drop of juice. A net work of toll-gates was devised. At the same time Government set on the bus owners two of their agencies— one, the Traffic Department, and the other, the Railway. The match industry has been thought of in time. These are some of the measures—minor measures adopted by the Government for the purpose of collecting whatever they wanted; and, Sir, the Financial Secretary speaks in a scoffing manner, when he refers to the 12½ per cent. rebate granted to the owners of the paddy lands.

Sir, under the Revenue Recovery Regulation, immovable properties were being sold like stale fish in an evening market. The size of the Government Gazette swelled to an enormous size and Government have finally decided not as my friends suggested, to shield these things, but in order to expedite the collection, to dispense with that very important rule of practice adopted by Government to publish in the Government Gazette the notification of sales under Section 32 of the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

The argument advanced is that in regard to these matters, the British Government have raised the duty on salt, they have raised the cost of postal service, they have imposed duty on matches. They have not published these Revenue sales in their Gazettes. So we also shall do the same thing. All that is good for British India is not good for Travancore. We are to be helped, we are to be protected, under conditions suitable to the State.

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In this connection, Sir, there is only one statement to make. On the side of taxation, Government have been pursing a relentless policy. Then on the side of development of nation building activities, only one word I have to say and that is with regard to the Agricultural Department. The only change or the only policy of advance adopted by them is to change the office from the Perukada Farm to some place in the Trivandrum town leaving the helpless cattle there, who, I understand are pining in solitude.

It is now said, Sir, that the rate of interest in the Land Mortgage Bank is reduced to 6½ per cent. This is, Sir, no dobut a blessing. But I think at the rate that Government were advancing funds from and to the Land Mortgage Bank, I believe, it would take as much time as Dr. Strong was estimated to take for the completion of his dictionary. At the rate we have now contributed, namely 3 lakhs of rupees and that for the purpose of redeeming 25 crores of rupees, it would take more than three hundred years to complete the work. Believe me, Sir, my method of calculation is correct.

And there is another thing also. Year after year the abolition of the *Agrasala* is moved for. I find from this year's budget that there is provision for the celebration of *Murajapom* next year. It is high time Sir, that these are abolished.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I was wondering how the members on this side of the House are, I believe, repeatedly and continuously attacking the very form of the budget prepared by the Financial Secretary. On the whole it is gratifying to note that our financial position is unquestionably sound. I hasten to disown, Sir, that statement being mine and have an authority for that. I will refer to page 26 of the financial statement, last line. "On the whole, it is gratifying to note that our present financial position is unquestionably sound".

Sir, I do not know to whom that position appears to be gratifying because as most of us have also found, for the matter of that, not even a single individual or member is found to be gratified at this position. On the other hand, what I find, at any rate, along with other members is that every one of the Hon'ble members, including yourself, is disappointed with the budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I may just give you a word of caution. Please do not identify Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, the member, with the occupant of the chair.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I did not even dream of that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may refer to Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's speech.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I am only addressing you, Sir, as the Chairman and I may take your authority to say that the Chair is also a silent listener to the speeches made here.

As some of the members remarked, the budget appears to me as a rich, spend-thrift budget. Of course, it may be a statement not reconcilable to some of the members of the House. But it appears to me just like that. I have got some experience in this House. Some years back (while a member there) invariably, I found the budget to be always a surplus budget. Well it is a piece of information to this House that a surplus budget is not after all an indication of the prosperity of a country. I have learnt it as being otherwise. A great financier has stated that deficit budget alone or a balanced budget is a sure indication of the country's progress and stability in finance. Viewed from that point of view, this financial statement is not worth the trouble. Well, Sir, what is the surplus obtained and how is this surplus obtained? The surplus obtained according to the financial statement is 260 thousand rupees. For the moment we may consider, Sir, what this surplus is made up of. The new figure that strikes one on the Revenue side is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, on account of Excise duty on matches. Well, in introducing the Bill for levying an excise duty on matches, the Law Member made it strictly understood by the House that it was not with the intention of raising revenue that the Bill was introduced. But because it was intended to hold out the hand of co-operation which the British Government wanted us to do. It is not for the purpose of raising revenue in our State for some necessary expenditure, that the excise duty was introduced but clearly for the purpose of extending a helping hand to the British Government. I ask, Sir, whether this Revenue of 2·50 lakhs from excise duty on matches is going to be a permanent source of income to our State. What will be the result in case the British Government were to abolish this excise duty some time hence? It is in the nature of a windfall as a result of our participating in the distribution of spoil *i. e.* wealth plundered from the poorest people, in the form of taxing their necessaries.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member of the opinion that the Travancore Government should forego that income?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Certainly not; I am only explaining the position. As was stated, Government is not going to be satisfied with the collection of such heavy tax on paddy land or of export duty on cocoanuts, but also going to tax the poorest as well by this duty on matches. I only wish to point out that this phenomenal revenue of 2·50 lakhs from matches is not due to any act or initiative on the part of our Government and as such this revenue should be treated in the nature of a wind fall and should not be taken to the head of Ordinary Revenue as it were under normal conditions. If so done, the surplus 2·50 lakhs would be reduced to 10 thousand rupees after deducting 2·50 lakhs from duty on matches. Then again what

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was a normal feature in the previous years, namely allotting amounts to sinking funds, towards debenture loan sinking fund and Quilon-Shencottah railway sinking fund. No contribution has got to be made, as was done in the previous years. Both the items put together come to about 1·87 lakhs. If this also is to be debited to the Revenue accounts, where will not be the surplus of even 10 thousand rupees. On the other hand, it will be a deficit of 1·77 lakhs of rupees. In this connection I may refer to the condition of the cardamom planters, who are to be taxed from next year onwards. This is a new source of income which is budgeted for Rs. 60,000. Why should this be done without any necessity for funds? If it be not done, this aggregate deficit would be 1·77 lakhs of rupees *plus* Rs. 60,000 or Rs 2·37 lakhs deficit.

Sir, apart from this indiscriminate admixture of figures in the budget in order to show the financial condition of the State there is nothing in it to indicate any new beneficent venture, profitable to the people.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): Is a deficit budget conducive to the welfare of the State?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Of course, a deficit budget may or may not indicate the prosperity of a country. But what I mean is that the Financil Secretary always belives in the surplus budget. A deficit budget may also equally indicate a country's progress and prosperity as a surplus budget. Then, Sir, I must come to certain statements made by the Financial Secretary introducing the budget for 1110. Certain new schemes of expenditure have been also attempted. Now with regard to the increment of collecting staff in the income tax section, the Financial Secretary has asked for two more Inspectors for the collection of income tax, one for the Municipal towns of Trivandrum and Nagercoil and the other for Quilon and Alleppey. If my words would carry any weight, I would say the appointment of one more or two more Income Tax Inspectors for Trivandrum and Nagercoil and that with increased pay would not produce good result as expected. The case that appears to have been made out by Government to increase the present staff is that at present the Income Tax Collectors are those who are over-worked and there is also reason to believe that there is so much leakage in the matter of income tax. What the Government meant by these reasons, I do not know, but it can be none other than sheer corruption on the part of the Income Tax Collectors who are entrusted with the responsibility of collecting the income tax. Sir, at present it is said they are so much over-worked that hardly they find time to reach at every person who is liable to pay income tax. Sir, the case appears to be otherwise. In actual experience they are found to trouble those who have no taxable income. They who are alleged to be over-worked are assisted by the Dewan Peishkars and

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[Mr. Sivathanu Pillai.]

Tahsildars and Assistant Dewan Peishkars. It is not on account of over-work their work seems to be inefficient but on account of their corruption. Of couse, I need hardly point out corruption is prevalent in almost every department in smaller or greater degree.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have got only a minute and a half.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The other day one Assistant Dewan Peishkar told me that he was only a new comer, referring to the omission on the part of the authorities to levy income tax on a certain private company. I refer to satisfy the curiosity of the member who interrupts me to know it to the instance of the Proprietor of the Pioneer Motor Company of Nagercoil. The proprietor who boasts of 80 or 90 buses and has been running them for the last 9 years has not paid a single pie on account of income tax.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pathanamthitta*): What is the Company's income?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): One word more.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): സർ, ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ഇവിടെ മുൻപ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറുകളിൽനിന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പ്രതിവർഷം മിച്ചംവൈക്കുന്നകാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകംശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായിനമുക്കു കാണാൻകഴിയും. ഉദാഹരണമായി അദ്ദേഹം ൧൯൩൫-ൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിൽ ൨,൦൨,൦൦൦ രൂപായും ൧൯൩൬-ൽ ൩൮,൧൦൦ രൂപായും, ൧൯൩൭-ൽ ൧,൧൪,൦൦൦ രൂപായും ൧൯൩൮-ൽ ൮൩,൦൦൦ രൂപായും, ൧൯൩൯-ൽ ൨,൭൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായും മിച്ചം വരുത്തികാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ നാമെല്ലാം മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതു് മിച്ചംവരുന്ന ബഡ്ജറു് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ വർഷാവസാനത്തിൽ Revised ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതുപോലെതന്നെ വേറൊരു നയം അദ്ദേഹം തുടരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഉദാഹരണമായി ൧൯൩൫-ൽ ൩,൫൩,൦൦൦ രൂപായും, ൧൯൩൬-ൽ ൩,൦൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായും, ൧൯൩൮-ൽ ൪,൧൨,൦൦൦ രൂപായും കുറവായി കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ൧൯൩൭-ൽ മാത്രമേ ഇതിൽ ഒരു വ്യത്യാസം വരുത്തിയതായി കാണുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇതിനു കാരണം മി. പദ്മനാഭപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ റവന്യൂവിൽനിന്നുള്ള വരവു ഗണ്യമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ൧൯൩൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിനേപ്പറ്റി അടുത്തവർഷം അങ്ങിനെ സംഭവിക്കുമെന്നു നമുക്കു ഊഹിക്കാവുന്നതുമാണ്. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ പ്ര

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ത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ അനുമോദിക്കണമോ, അപലപിക്കണമോ എന്നു നിങ്ങൾതന്നെ ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. എന്നാൽ വീണ്ടും അടുത്തവർഷത്തെ ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഒരു ചെറിയ മിച്ചം അദ്ദേഹം കാണിക്കുന്നു. അതിനു ഉദാഹരണമായി ഫ്ര ഠ ൈ-ൽ നവ്യ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായും ഫ്ര ഠ വ്യ-ൽ ന്യ,ൻഫ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായും മിച്ചംവരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ മിച്ചംകാണിക്കലും ഇടക്കാലത്തു കടത്തിൻ പര്യവസാനിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷയും അദ്ദേഹം മനപൂർവ്വം കാണിക്കുകയാണു് എന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളേ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താതെ അദ്ദേഹം വിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ബഡ്ജററിൽ മിച്ചംവരുത്താൻവേണ്ടി എന്തും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാറുണ്ടെന്നു വീണ്ടും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജററു് പ്രസംഗം നോക്കിയാൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എവിടെയെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഹെൽത്തു് യൂണിററു് സ്ഥാപിച്ചുതരാമെന്നു അതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം സമ്മതിച്ചിരുന്നതായി കാണാൻകഴിയും. എന്നാൽ ഇക്കൊല്ലവും അതുവകക്കായി ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തികാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ കൊല്ലം അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഹെൽത്തുയൂണിററു് സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു ഹെൽത്തുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കാൻ ഇടയില്ല. ഫ൪,ഠ ഠ ഠ-ൽചില്വാനം രൂപാമാത്രം ചിലവുവരുന്ന ഹെൽത്തുയൂണിററിൻറെകാര്യം വിട്ടിട്ടു രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിചില്വാനം രൂപ മിച്ചംവരുന്ന ബഡ്ജറു എഴുതിഉണ്ടാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും ആശാസ്യമല്ല. സാധാരണ ഈമാതിരികാര്യങ്ങളെസംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ പണമില്ലെന്നാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു പറയാറുള്ള സമാധാനം. ഫ,വ്യ ഠ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ മിച്ചംവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു, ഈ ബഡ്ജററിൽ പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിനു അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ലാഎന്നുള്ള കാര്യം എത്രമാത്രം സ്തുത്യർഹമാണെന്നു് ഊഹിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

ഓരോകൊല്ലവുംചെലവു ലാപ്സ്ചെയ്യാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സംപ്രദായം സാധാരണമാണു്. ഉദാഹരണത്തിനു P. W. D. -യിൽ ഫ്ര ഠ ൈ-ൽ ഫ,ഫ ൈ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായും, ഫ്ര ഠ വ്യ-ൽ ഫ,ഫന്യ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായും, ലാപ്സ്ആയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഫ്ര ഠ ൈ-ലെ മിച്ചം നവ്യ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഫ്ര ഠ വ്യ-ൽ ന്യ,ൻഫ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ മിച്ചം ഇരുന്നതു ഫ,ഫന്യ,ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ പൊതുമരാമത്തു് വകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവിനായിട്ടുപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നതാണു്. ഈ നയം ഒരിക്കലും ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

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[Mr. V. K. Velappan Nair.]

ഇതെല്ലാം നമ്മുടെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണാറുള്ള സാധാരണ സംപ്രദായങ്ങളാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ മുൻപാകെ ആലോചനക്കു വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ സക്കാരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളംഇനത്തിൽ യാതൊരു കുറവും ചെയ്യാൻ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. എന്നുതന്നെയല്ല നേരേമറിച്ച് ആവശ്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളം വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കാനും വമ്പിച്ച തുക ശമ്പളംകൊടുക്കാനും ശ്രമിച്ചുകാണുന്നു.

കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം "ഗയിംവാർഡൻ" ഉദ്യോഗവും ഈ കൊല്ലം "ഗസ്റ്റ്ഡയറക്ടർ" എന്ന പുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗവും കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ രണ്ടുംതന്നെ പെൻഷൻപറ്റിയ ആളുകൾക്കാണ് കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതും. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മകൊണ്ട് ഒട്ടധികം യുവജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഈകാലത്തു്, പ്രായാധിക്യത്താൽ ജോലി ചെയ്യാൻ പ്രാപ്തരല്ലെന്നുകണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറുജോലിയിൽനിന്നും പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കു വീണ്ടും ഈ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും അഭിലഷണീയമല്ല.

കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറുകാലത്തു് ഈ സഭ നിരുത്തൽ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ട ഇങ്കംടാക്സ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ഉദ്യോഗം ഇപ്പോൾ വേറേ ഒരു രൂപത്തിൽ ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. പേരുമാത്രം മാറീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നേയുള്ളൂ. "ഇങ്കംടാക്സ് കളക്ടർ" എന്ന ഉദ്യോഗം കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുന്നു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തേ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരുന്നതിൽ വളരെ കുറയാതുള്ള ഒരു തുക ഈ തവണത്തെ രണ്ടുകളക്ടർമാർ തട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. അടുത്തകൊല്ലം ഈ കളക്ടർമാരുടെ സംഖ്യ മൂന്നായിട്ടു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനും ഇടയുണ്ട്. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു പഴയ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു നന്നു്.

അതുപോലതന്നെ കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നു ഈ സഭ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടഇൻസ്പെക്ട്രസ്സിന്റെ പേഴ്സണൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഉദ്യോഗം ഇപ്പോൾ വീണ്ടും പുതിയ ഒരു രൂപത്തിൽ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): പേരുമാറിയെന്നല്ലാതുണ്ടോ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): അതേ പേരുമാത്രം മാറിയെന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): ആളും മാറിഅല്ലെ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*). അതെ ആളും പേരും മാറീട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഈ പുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥയുടെജോലി കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ പേഴ്സനൽഅസിസ്റ്റൻറിന്റെ ജോലിയെക്കാൾ കുറവായിട്ടേയുള്ളൂ. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലം കൂടുതൽജോലി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നകാലത്തു് ഈ സഭ വേണ്ടാ എന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗം വീണ്ടും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും നന്നായിട്ടില്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരിഷ്കാരകമ്മറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ രണ്ടു ഡിവിഷൻ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ മാത്രമെ ശുപാർശചെയ്തിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നാലു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ നിയമിയ്ക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചു. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒട്ടും അശ്രദ്ധ ഫൈനാൽഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു വനംവക ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ കാട്ടുജാതിക്കാരുടെ ജീവചരിത്രം ഏഴുതാനായി നിയമിച്ചേക്കാനിടയുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നു.

ഫ ഫ ഫ ൦ -ൽ തുകൽവ്യവസായം നിരുത്തൽചെയ്യാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും ടാനറി "എക്സ്പർട്ടി"ന്റെ ശമ്പളം ഇപ്പോഴും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്.

ഇങ്ങനെ നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടിസംബന്ധമായി യാതൊരു ഉപേക്ഷയും ഫൈനാൽഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു നമുക്കു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. നേരെമറിച്ചു ജനങ്ങളുടെ പൊതുവായ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചോ, വളരെ ശക്തിയായി ജനങ്ങളെ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചോ യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. എന്നുതന്നേയല്ല, സാധുക്കളായ ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സൌകര്യം നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഇരിക്കുകയുമാണു്. ഇക്കൊല്ലം ഗയിംഫീസ്സു് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയും കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തിൽ പെൺകുട്ടികൾക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പകുതിഫീസിനെ മുക്കാൽഫീസ്സാക്കിയും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ലേശം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു.

കൂടാതെ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ തീപ്പെട്ടിവ്യവസായത്തിനു ഹാനികരമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഒരു തീരുവയും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനു നമ്മെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പറഞ്ഞുമനസ്സിലാക്കിയതു് ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നിർബന്ധം അനുസരിച്ചു് നാം ഇവിടെയും തീരുവബിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളേവിഷമിപ്പിക്കാമോ അതെല്ലാം ചെയ്യാൻഗവണ്മെൻറുപ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നു.

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[Mr. V. K. Velappan Nair.]

എന്റെ മുൻഗാമി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറുകാർ ജനങ്ങളോടു കരംഈടാക്കുന്നതിനായി വലുതായ അനീതി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ ഈ സഭയുടെ തീരുമാനംഅനുസരിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇരുപത്തിഞ്ചു ശതമാനം ഭൂനികുതികുറക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചില്ല എങ്കിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിലങ്ങളുടെ കരം പന്ത്രണ്ടരശതമാനം കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെ ഇരുന്നിട്ടും എസ്റ്റിമേറിനേക്കാൾ ൪,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കൂടുതൽ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി പറയുന്നു. ഇതിൽനിന്നു ഈ നാട്ടിലേദ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറു കരം ഈടാക്കുന്നതു് എത്രശക്തിയായിട്ടാണെന്നു നമുക്കു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ൧൯൩൦-ലേ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഭൂനികുതിമുഴുവൻ പിരിയുമെന്നും പരിക്കാമെന്നും ഫൈനാഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിപ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഒരിക്കലും ഇതു ശരിയല്ല. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായ ക്ഷാമം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഈ പ്രതീക്ഷ എങ്ങിനെ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു ഊഹിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞമാസങ്ങളിലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഗസറ്റുനോക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം എത്ര വിഷമിച്ചാണു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഭൂനികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു കാണാൻകഴിയും.

കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി താലൂക്കിൽ ൧,൪൫൮ നമ്പർ വസ്തുക്കൾ ഒരു തവണത്തേലേവത്തിനായി ഗസറിൽ പരസ്യം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ടു ഈ വിധത്തിലാണു് ഭൂനികുതിഇനം ഇടാക്കിവരുന്നതു്. ഇതെത്ര സങ്കടകരമായ ഒരു അവസ്ഥയാണു്? കരംവകയിൽ ഒരു ശ്രാപാകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരാൾക്കു നടപടിചിലവു ഒരു ശ്രാപാക്രൂടി ആകാറുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ശ്രാപാകരം കൊടുക്കാൻനിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു നടപടിച്ചിലവുംകൂടെ രണ്ടു ശ്രാപാകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിവരുന്നു.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, on a perusal of the budget and the Financial Secretary's speech, I agree with Financial Secretary in his view that the financial condition of the Travancore Government is sound, at any rate, for the present. But I cannot congratulate him on the surplus budget that he has produced. He has budgeted for a surplus of Rs. 2,60,000. For purposes of correct comparison, one patent item has to be reduced from this so-called surplus, because the sinking fund need not be paid for from 1100 according to the present arrangement. Page 3 of the budget will show that until 1100 a sum of Rs. 1,86,000 was being spent under this item. We have to deduct this amount from Rs. 2,60,000 to see what the real surplus is, and then we shall find that it is not Rs. 2,60,000. Again, some of the items on the receipt side based on the actuals of 1108 and on the revised

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estimates of 1109 appear to be somewhat inflated. We know as a matter of fact that the revenue under Registration, under Anchal, under Stamps and under some other items has been steadily going down. As regards Land Revenue, it may be definitely pointed out that the amount budgeted for in 1110 under *ayacut* revenue to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs is not likely to be realised. In this way, if we analyse the figures, we will clearly find that this sum of Rs. 2,60,000 which the Financial Secretary hopes to see as a surplus at the end of 1110 is not going to come in.

Coming to the question of the diversion of the sinking fund in respect of the Shencotta-Quilon Railway, I have heard two views expressed here in the course of the present discussion. This sinking fund was created in 1088 M. E. and the first payment of Rs. 2 lakhs was made in that year. It was anticipated at that time that Rs. 118 lakhs would have to be paid in 1945. Now we find that the capital outlay has risen from Rs. 118 lakhs to Rs. 1,38,77,000, and that the sinking fund has amounted to Rs. 69,43,000. It is this amount that has now been diverted from the purpose for which it was originally meant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member how the figure has grown up ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Because various items of capital expenditure are added from year to year, such as the purchase of the rolling stock.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does it form capital expenditure ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Yes. Though now the amount has been diverted, it seems to me that after 1945 when the question whether the Travancore Government should purchase this railway arises, it will be desirable for this Government to purchase the railway; because it is not proper that we should be paying interests for all time to come in respect of this railway. Of course, there are eleven years more and considering that there are other urgent items of expenditure to be met at present, it is right that the amount has been diverted in the way that the Government have done. But one word of warning has to be entered. It is found that out of the sum of Rs. 69,43,000 a sum of Rs. 4,95,000 has been added to the debenture sinking fund so that it may not be necessary for us to contribute towards this fund in future years. What purpose is going to be served by adding this sum of Rs. 4,95,000 to the above fund at the present moment does not appear to me to be quite clear, because I am sure that the investors are not going to surrender their securities now. They get very good interest from the Travancore Government for the loans advanced by them and they are not likely to get the same interest if they receive that money and put it in banks. So, I do not think that any real object is going to be gained by diverting this sum of Rs. 4,95,000 to the Debenture Sinking Fund.

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[Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

Another item that I find gets a contribution as a result of the diversion is the sum of Rs. 5 lakhs to form an irrigation reserve fund. I also find that out of this fund a sum of Rs. 68,000 is proposed to be diverted for carrying out certain protective irrigation works. It seems to me doubtful whether any amount could be properly diverted from this fund for purposes of protective irrigation. Protective irrigation works cost small items of expenditure in different parts of the country and it appears to me that the money for that should be found from the current revenue of the State.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member whether he is in a position to tell us whether there is at present a depreciation fund in respect of the Shencotta-Trivandrum line?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I am not in a position to give an accurate answer.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Should interest be paid after 1945?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Yes, we will have to pay.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member whether it was a novel discovery or whether it can be found from the original records?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I am unable to answer that question.

The only two items of expenditure towards which this amount could be utilised are the expenditure on account of reproductive public works and relief of agricultural distress. I do not object to the diversion of these funds for expenditure in connection with the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme. I only say that the amount should not be utilised to meet ordinary current expenditure on any account.

Next, coming to the question of economic distress, I am sorry to find that the Financial Secretary has made no mention of it in his speech nor does it appear to be the intention of the Government to deal with the ryots in the manner they deserve. (*Hear, hear*). What is it that we find here? There is an allotment of Rs. 3·50 lakhs for the grant of land improvement and agricultural loans. And what is the interest charged on the loan? Loans are now given at 6 per cent. Which *bona fide* Agriculturist is going to take the loan at this rate of interest when the land he holds is not capable of fetching even two per cent interest? (*Hear, hear*). I enter here a very strong plea on behalf of the poor agriculturists of this country for the reduction of interest on agricultural loans at least in cases of loans amounting to Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. Leave alone those who are in a position to take up larger amounts. In the case of agriculturists who take small amounts it is essential that the interest should be reduced to 4 per cent. from 6 per cent. As I have already stated, a sum of Rs. 32 lakhs was budgeted for under Ayacut revenue in 1109, but only a sum of Rs. 28

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lakhs is going to be realised according to the revised Budget. As a result, there is to be a default of Rs. 3·30 lakhs. Government have budgeted for Rs. 30 lakhs for 1110 which shows that they have no idea of even continuing the 12½ per cent. remission on wet lands which they allowed in 1109. The agriculturists would be in a worse condition in 1110 than in 1109. So far as the Trivandrum Division is concerned, in the Taluks of Trivandrum, Nedumangad, etc., crops have failed and a great deal of relief has to be given if the present distress continues. Our demand is that remission to the extent of 25 per cent. should be allowed on both wet and garden lands in 1110. I hope, Sir, that something will be done to relieve the agriculturists. Again I find that Rs. 1 lakh is expected to be realised in the Budget under sale of Government lands. I do not know how it is going to be realised when only Rs. 70,000 is brought under the revised Budget for 1109. It is not a good policy to sell away Government lands when they do not fetch real value in the market. This is not the proper time to dispose of Government lands.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I do not know whether it is quite fair either to congratulate or to condemn the Financial Secretary for the Budget proposals. They are essentially the proposals of Government and he may be responsible only for adding up the figures and cutting out a small road in some village or omitting some bridge somewhere. On that ground I do not think it is fair either to condemn or to congratulate the Financial Secretary for the broad financial policy adumbrated in the Budget.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member whether the criticisms forwarded against the Financial Secretary are against the Government or Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may come to your own conclusion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I do not answer that question.

I wish to touch upon certain broad aspects of the Budget. First of all, I wish to enter a strong protest against the tone adopted in the Budget speech. In the first place I take the question of the Sinking Fund. It will appear from the tone of the speech of the Financial Secretary that we will gulp down when the Financial Secretary says :—

> "Thanks to the representation made by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Legal and Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maharaja on behalf of this Government, the Government of India have accepted the above views of the Travancore Government, and held that there is no legal obligation on the part of this Government to purchase the Shencottah-Quilon section of the Railway and that we are at liberty to utilise the Sinking Fund created for repayment of the capital cost on the line for any other purpose we deem fit"

From the tone of the speech it seems to be suggested that it should be taken for granted that it would be a great calamity if we have to purchase the Quilon-Shencotta Railway. It would appear that it

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

was a great blessing that we were not under any obligation to purchase it. It may be either way. But the Financial Secretary did not give us any data by which to determine whether it is advantageous or not to purchase it. That data have not been furnished. We do not know what will be our liability, and at what rate of interest we are to pay for the investments. We do not know the economic possibility of this Railway, when the Quilon-Ernakulam line is constructed. We are at a loss to understand whether this expenditure will be advantageous from an economic point of view, or in other words whether it is possible to effect a saving in the revenue if we have a greater control over the administration and can look into the audit of the accounts more minutely. In a lump we have to pay 60 per cent. of the income on working charges. I do not know whether it is to our advantage. Questions asked in this House based on these facts are not clearly answered. Without giving all these details we have to conclude whether it is a gain to continue our interest in this line or give up the idea of purchasing this line in 1945. Another point I wish to emphasise is this. It has been paid that, due to the representation made by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, there is the option for the Travancore Government not to purchase the line. I wish to ask the Government in all seriousness whether all transactions entered into by Government with other parties are entered into in such a careless manner that Government are not aware of their real position and their real obligations beforehand. It seems to me that it is very dangerous to entrust the Government solely to enter into the various engagements and contracts with other parties to be left entirely with them without greater scrutiny. So this is a warning to Government to be very careful in the matter of entering into agreements with other parties and they should know what the agreements are before they are entered into.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know from the member whether the present understanding is clear ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : No, there is no guarantee. This makes one thing clear, that Government have not been sure of their obligations till now. That point has been made clear by the Financial Secretary's speech. With regard to the diversion of this fund, I am at one with the previous speaker Mr. Parameswara Iyer, in thinking that there is needless hurry shown by the Government to pay off the debenture loan raised for the purpose of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway. I do not know why there should be any hurry in the matter for the Government. I am surprised to find that the Government want to clear off all debts all of a sudden and then keep quiet. Why should this amount which is due in 1945 be provided for so early ? Why should they fight shy of the debt which they have to pay to the purchasers of these loans? The purchasers have not demanded it. We have not been told that there is a constant demand for the money from the investors. Nothing like that has been shown. Why should Government be so anxious to give away this amount and clear their debts ? I cannot understand the reason

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for the same. If the financial position of the Government is unquestionably sound, why should the Government want it to be paid off so early? I find that the Financial Secretary is still under the influence of that conservative idea about public debts and the policy of loans. Sir, policy of fighting shy of loans was due to a wrong understanding of the theory of public debts. Before the Great War, Government of India was also fighting shy of loans and debts. Many of the provinces were also like that. But after 1914 as a result of the lessons taught by the Great War, all the progressive States were in for borrowings, and borrowing of course for reproductive purposes. Why should any Government fight shy of it, especially our Government which is absolutely in a sound financial position?

Sir, the Pallivasal Electric Scheme is unquestionably a paying concern. It is a work that will be useful for posterity. And why should not posterity be asked to pay for it? I think that is a work, an excellent work on which loans could be raised and if only loans could be raised, money could be found by loans for the working of this scheme. Sir, this amount should not be utilised for that. I do not think Government have thought about this sufficiently. This House will not be wise in concluding that it is not necessary for us to purchase the Quilon-Shencotta Railway. I for my part do not commit to that position. We are not supplied with sufficient details to say whether the purchase will be sound or not.

I plead for a bolder policy of public borrowing on the part of the Travancore Government because that will not only be conducive to our economic development but it will also familiarise the people with the habit of investment. Every body knows that in Travancore there is capital waiting for investment and there is capital waiting to be invested on safe securities. The amounts that are deposited in the Savings Banks account and the sums deposited in the Permanent Fund-they have got almost a surfeit of deposits-they will only welcome it for safe investment on behalf of the country. I think Government ought to take courage and they should raise loans and carry on in this time of economic depression works of public utility, and works of development. There cannot be a better time for carrying on those works of public utility.

I find, and that has been alluded to by my friends, that the Budget is absolutely barren with regard to any provision for relief for the agriculturists. Sir, if you read the life of great financiers like Gladstone and Goschen and many others, it will be found that the one objective with which they worked has to find out a way of relieving the burden of the tax-payer. No such idea seems to have entered the head of the Financial Secretaries of our Government. They think their duty is only accounting and building with figures. They do not think it is their duty—it is perhaps not their fault—it is perhaps due to the want of initiative in shaping the policy and perhaps also due to a feeling of impotence and a feeling of their inatality to launch on a fresh financial policy. They do not seem to entertain any idea of

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enunciating a policy and push forward a policy by which the burden of the tax-payer will be substantially reduced. They do not seem to think that it is possible and they do not realise how unborn generations will be blessing them and what a great achievement it will be and what a great opportunity they are losing while they have got the power to shape the finances of the country and thus enable the country to march one step forward in its progress on the economic field. This idea I hope the Financial Secretary will take to heart.

Sir, many of my friends were talking about the relief that ought to be given to the agriculturists. Sir, time has advanced and the distress due to the economic depression has increased apace that I think now even a 50 per cent. reduction in the tax will not be a sufficient safeguard or a sufficient help rendered to the agriculturists. Sir, the Mysore Legislative Assembly in a resolution brought forward discussed this question at great length and the Government realised the position with far-sightedness. They did not take up this remedy. A mere reduction in the payment of taxes, they said, would not do. The condition of the ryots has gone from bad to worse. Some radical remedy seems to be necessary and the country has to think about that. And they have appointed a Committee to go into the question with all seriousness and the Committee is working to find out permanent and adequate measures of relief to the ryots. There is no such idea presented, no such intentions or the shadow of such intentions seen in the financial estimates for the next year. I do not merely blame the Financial Secretary for that. But I blame the whole Government for that.

Sir, when we say all these things and when we talk of the economic depression, we realise that for Government to carry on the administration it must have funds. We understand that a good and progressive administration means expenditure, especially a popular administration means expenditure. But are the Government seriously thinking of distributing the burden of taxes equitably among the population who pays land tax now? That is a question that I have agitated when the Edavagai Bill was discussed here. But I wish to point out a rich source from which Government can get some more income. Sir, it is only the agriculturists and people who pay Pandaravagai tax who bear the brunt of the whole taxation. There are a lot of Inam lands tax free. Under the Jenmi Kudiyan Regulation .....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have only a minute more.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I want only 2 minutes.

When the Jenmi Kudiyan Regulation work will be completed, we find that the Jenmi will be in possession of an income that will be permanent to him. So also, the Edavagais after settlement will be getting an income that will be sure and certain. You find that these are sources, untaxed sources from which Government should derive income, for they are also enjoying the benefits of the administration.

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They are getting collections effected due to the strong arm of Government which is maintained by the contributions made by the tax payers. They should pay if they want to get the protection of the State, if they want to get the amenities supplied by the State.

MR. ANTONY GEORGE (*Nominated*): Sir, an impression has been gaining ground that there is some thing wrong with our finance, that there has been of late inconsiderate and impetuous expenditure in many directions that has almost depleted the treasury. In this circumstance a surplus budget is a very welcome thing.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Louder, please.

MR. ANTONY GEORGE (*Nominated*): It serves not only to clear this mistaken impression but it also gives a sense of security and confidence in the financial affairs of Government. For this the Financial Secretary deserves to be warmly congratulated. But, a surplus Budget is not inconsistent with the misery existing in the land, for a Budget can never give a true picture of the financial position of the country as a whole. It does not attempt to do so. It simply shows the revenue to be realised and the items of expenditure to be incurred. It never shows the tragedy and difficulty underlying the collection of revenue. My congratulations would have been warmer had the Financial Secretary utilised the surplus in making some provisions by which he could have given greater and better relief. He could have given some measure of relief to the agriculturists and cultivators who work under an unprecedented economic and financial distress by giving some out right remission of tax or some such thing. However it is very good of the Government to have made some provision for the upliftment of the depressed class, but along with it some provision could have been made for the relief of the suffering and destitute, wandering in the street in very large numbers. The sick, the infirm and the destitutes are not the result of society. They have always been with us and they will continue to be in existence. A destitute home in each of the municipal towns of the State is absolutely necessary.

Now we are spending thousands of rupees on mosquito hunting and hookworm campaign in order to prevent the spread of disease. Provision has not been made in the Public Health Department for relieving those who are already victims of the parasites and the bacteria of these diseases. If some measure of relief has been provided by the Financial Secretary for the poor people or had he made some provision to relieve the harassed agriculturists, his Budget would have been a document of great interest and importance.

If only one cares to study the Budget estimates for the last few years, he would be convinced of the fact that the normal receipt of the revenue does not keep pace with the expenditure. The stable sources of revenue are not very many and the unstable or elastic ones are dependent on circumstances and conditions which are beyond the control of any one, even of the greatest financiers of the world.

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The Financial Secretary must have had in his view that when there is disproportionate growth in the recurring expenditure, any Government would be tempted to raise the revenue by taxation and our Government have been freely adopting these methods of exacting dues by exercising their power. The only wise course for Government to adopt would be to develop the material resources of the land and to cut down expenditure.

It is very pleasing to note that the Government have not been altogether unmindful of these facts. They have launched upon the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme and have participated in the Cochin Harbour Scheme, which has proved a clear and successful speculation and safe investment. The contemplated Railway between Quilon and Ernakulam if carried out would be of inestimable benefit to the State.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know by whom that Railway is contemplated ?

MR. ANTONY GEORGE (*Nominated*) : By Government.

Public works should be planned and carried out with a view to develop the resources of the whole State. The capital of the State should be developed. It should be made a proud and glittering city. Nobody objects to that. But all splendour and pomp should not be concentered in the capital city alone We should also see to the provincial towns and villages. They should not be starved. They should be given the fullest scope for development. Our aim should be to build and develop as many towns and villages as possible in the different parts of the State.

The departments of Agriculture and Industries are the two departments most intimately connected with the development of the resources of the country. I am glad to find that the Industries Department is showing some signs of activity ; but, I may suggest that they would do well to concentrate their attention on the development of cottage industries, rather than embark on costly and doubtful schemes of large scale factory industry. We have plenty of useful cottage industry now in the country in very crude form, in need of help and encouragement. The lace industry, for instance, was thriving very well some years back. Due to want of proper encouragement it has almost died now. The copra industry and coir industry stand in great need of encouragement. If these industries are not supported now, the consequence would be very serious as these are the main occupation of the bulk of our people.

The Agricultural Department has become a do-nothing department. It is not doing any real useful work. Of late, nobody seems even to be aware of its existence. The officers of the department, the experts, do not come into contact with the people at all. The people do not derive any benefit from the working of the department, any help from the Officers of the department. Judging from

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the way in which things are going on, it is high time to make them do practical things or to abolish the department altogether.

Coming to the Judicial Department, temporary courts, additional courts and additional benches, both in the District and the High Court, have become a special feature. If the recommendations of the Law's Delays Committee, in regard to the location of District Courts especially, had been given effect to, the concentration of numerous courts in the same locality could have been avoided to a large extent. As it is, in several places, we find two and sometimes three courts situated in the same locality, all centred round one District Court, something like the mother hen sitting brooding over her chickens. As has been said by one of the previous speakers, the Judicial Department is one of the most important departments in the State; and it is therefore the paramount duty of Government to look into the working of the Judicial Department and to correct its short comings and defects.

I wish to say a few words with respect to the Education Department also. It is a thoroughly unsound policy to have co-education and mixed schools. There is also a tendency on the part of the authorities to suppress educational activities in various parts of the State. I cannot, certainly, think of congratulating the department for that. There is a desire, rather a morbid desire, on the part of the Director to increase, to multiply offices, in the name of efficiency. The retrenchment axe, or rather the cleansing knife, has to be applied rather heavily in this department. I know the department has recently suffered a cut at the hands of the Government; and I suppose the posts abolished now will not be created again. I do not want to say more about this department just at present.

I shall then turn my attention to public service in general. This has been the most important question so far as the agitation of the people is concerned, and it is giving maximum trouble to the Government also. It has divided the people into definite sections, each fighting for its own legitimate share in the public service. If one were to gauge the situation here by reference to what one finds in our newspapers dealing with this question, one would naturally have to conclude that the situation is hopelessly desparate. The picture would be really gloomy. About two months ago, I read an article in one of the best known Madras Dailies. The writer of it is an old stager in politics. He has changed his political complexion more often than I could tell. As I read the article I began to feel much misgivings over the fate of this country.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Does the member refer to Mr. George Joseph, Barrister-at-law ?

MR. ANTONY GEORGE (*Nominated*): Yes. And when I came to that part of the article in which this amazing writer reviewed the Military and Police dispositions in our State, my mind became oppressed with a sense of incalculable disaster. Insinuations contained in his writing took body and shape and I seemed to hear dark rebellion,

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thundering at our gates. However it is undeniable that there is a lot of discontent over the question of distribution of offices in Government Service. Nobody can ignore it. This thorny question is spoiling the fair name of our country. As it is, it is affording a handle to mischief makers who exploit the situation to satisfy their own selfish ends. Hitherto Government have not done anything to solve the problem and to settle matters once for all. The present method of selecting and appointing people to places and positions has become thoroughly unsatisfactory.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do the lady members wish to speak now?

MISS HEPZIBAH GNANASIKHAMANI (*Nominated*) Not to-day, Sir.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I am sorry to say that I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary on the Budget that he has presented. He does not seem to have been careful enough to allot sums for many of the absolute needs of the people. I am sure that, if he had done that, he would not have been able to present before us a surplus budget. Many of the most important local needs have been disregarded. There are ever so many very useful branch roads which have not been provided for in the Budget in spite of repeated representations from the people. Many irrigation tanks require immediate attention from the P. W. D. but the Financial Secretary has not made any provision for them in the Budget. Even at the outset of his speech, the Financial Secretary says that the Budget has been framed in consideration of the present economic depression.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Where does he say that?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): I will read it now for the benefit of the member.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are not bound to do it.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Then, Sir, this is a time when the laws of nature and laws of economy have made it almost impossible for the people to live. The economic depression has a very sad tale to tell. The Financial Secretary does not seem to have taken into consideration the distress in the rural parts of the country. The Land Revenue Department is quite unaware of the sad plight of the people and tries to realize the Government dues to the last pie and they are taking all sorts of coercive steps for that purpose. The Tahsildars and Peishkars go about from house to house with their various threatening orders; but, still, the people do not pay in time. The main reason is that they are not really in a position to pay. Government do not seem to realise that, by squeezing out all dues from the people, they are only killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Government ought to consider seriously the question of granting remission of land tax. Fifty per cent. remission is the minimum that I can think of. Instead of remitting the taxes, they are realising a large sum by way of process fees and forfeitures. In the next year's budget, a sum of Rs. 75,000 is shown as receipt on account of demand

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notice fee, etc. This is an index showing that the Government are not at all sympathetic towards the people.

I wish to add a word with regard to the diversion of the sinking fund that has been the subject matter of much criticism here. The sinking fund has so far accumulated to Rs. 69 lakhs, and the decision of the Government of India has been received to the effect that the Government of Travancore are under no obligation to purchase the Quilon-Shencottah Railway line in 1945. I very much doubt the beneficial nature of the decision. I must say, Sir, that, if the Government do not purchase the line, they would be losing a great chance. By purchasing the line, the Government would be in a position to employ a number of Travancoreans and it will afford a good solution of the problem of unemployment. And, the utilisation of the accumulated sinking fund for the Pallivasal Scheme is not quite in order. Anyhow, I do not say that the Pallivasal Scheme should be given up; but the Government should finance the works connected with the scheme by floating a loan. The sinking fund, if they decide upon not purchasing the Quilon-Shencottah line, must be utilized for the benefit of the people throughout the State and not for a scheme which will benefit only a section of the population. The sinking fund has been accumulating by amounts taken from the general revenues of the State year after year and that revenue should be used for the welfare of the people in the country. Government find it very difficult to finance the public works in the rural parts. Government can very well set apart the sinking fund for financing the public works in the rural parts.

Then a word with regard to the Agricultural Department: the people say that they do not derive any benefit from the department. On the other hand, Government contend that the people are not ready to co-operate with the Government and to act up to the instructions of the authorities in the department. Government can make the people, if they want, take to intensive cultivation and the use of modern implements. In the Census Report it is stated that it is not possible to make Travancore self-sufficient in regard to paddy cultivation. The two main reasons given are that the holdings in Travancore are not economic, and the indebtedness of the people. I think there is not much force in it. If the Government have a will, they can make the country self-sufficient in the matter of rice production. On the whole I am sorry to find that the Department is not doing anything beneficial to the people. If the department cannot turn out any useful work, it is better to abolish the department and thus save a large sum of money.

And finally, I must offer a few remarks with regard to certain other departments. It is patent that the Government are not exercising proper control over certain departments For example, in the Medical Department, certain unfortunate events have occurred in the Women and Children's Hospital and they were the subject of various questions in the past session of the Assembly and the Government evaded giving answers to those questions. They wanted to treat the matter as very

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confidential just to save the officers involved. It was the foremost duty of Government to warn the people from taking to the assistance of these officers. They ought to have given a danger signal to the poor people who knew nothing of the persons concerned.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): One minute more, Sir. The Government ought to have brought everything to light they ought to have exposed the persons who did not take care to properly discharge their duties; the Government ought to have meted out exemplary punishments to the persons concerned. Instead of doing this the Government have shielded the guilty persons and allowed such act to be committed in future.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Sir, I may at the very outset observe that the Financial Secretary has taken great pains in preparing his budget speech and that he has to be congratulated for presenting an acceptable budget to the House. Before I deal with the budget I would like to touch on one or two of the points adverted to by the Financial Secretary in his speech. According to the actuals of 1108, there was a surplus of Rs. 6,91,000. The Financial Secretary himself admits that the surplus was due, to a large extent, to the savings in the expenditure. Of the savings, Rs. 2,16,000 was under Public Works. My surmise is that this saving was due to the omission to execute certain public works which were important. It would have been gratifying if the savings were under the cost of the administrative machinery about which there is great complaint that it is swelling every year. My point is that when any allotment is made for any public work, it should be expended in full. The policy of omitting to execute any public work of importance and of thereby making a saving is not at all commendable.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the impropriety of the diversion of the sinking fund which was being accumulated to be utilised for the purchase of the Quilon-Shencotta Railway. The capital outlay is said to be about Rs. 138 lakhs. More than half of that amount was accumulated by the Government by a way of sinking fund. The purchase was to be made some 11 years hence that is in 1945. By that time, my surmise is, the Government would have been in a position to accumulate the fund necessary for the purchase of the railway. I think that, if proper representation is made to the British Government, some remission would be allowed on account of wear and tear and thus we could make some profit also in the purchase If the railway were purchased, it would be a very valuable asset to the country. The Government could exercise independent right over the railway and eradicate certain evils which are alleged to exist in the Railway administration. Again, Government would be altogether absolved from the liability, the recurring liability, of paying underwritten guaranteed interests. So, in my opinion, it is not at all wise on the part of Government to divert the sinking fund and disable the Government from making the purchase which will be quite useful to the country.

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I shall now pass on to the budget. Though the budget shows that there would be a balance of Rs. 2,60,000 in the income after meeting the expenditure for the next year, I doubt whether there would be such a balance left at the end of the year when the actuals are obtained. According to the estimate before us, the income for 1110 is only as the revised estimate for the current year. The revised estimate for the current year under income and expenditure works out a deficit of something like Rs. 5,11,000. Now, it has been conceded by Government that there is economic depression all over the country. Under these circumstances, it is not likely that the future will be a prosperous one and it is quite likely that a deficit budget will be the result. I have no complaints in regard to a deficit budget. It may be such a sort of budget that we sometimes may stand in need of. The wants of the State and the people are numerous and the expenditure will necessarily go up. Such being the case, it is not expedient on the part of Government to withhold a portion of its revenue from being expended simply to show a balance. Government cannot be compared to the manager of a mere household whose duty it is to make savings for use in his old age or for the benefit of his children. The Government which spends more than its income for the use of its people and without any risk of running into bankruptcy is, in my opinion, the most progressive Government.

It is not disparaging to Government to raise a loan for the purpose of meeting the expenditure in executing some public work or other I may as an instance, refer to the expediency of raising a loan and executing a work of public utility. Government have spent large sums of money for surveying certain Railway lines such as the Quilon-Ernakulam line and the branch line from Mavelikara to Quilon. The opening of these lines should be, no doubt, reproductive works. If these proposals are accepted, it will prove useful to the public and I hope it will provide labour to the unemployed in these days of economic depression.

Now coming to certain items in the Budget, I find that a sum of Rs. 4.50 lakhs is estimated under income tax. It is doubtful whether the income from the income tax and land revenue were estimated with due regard to the present economic depression. Every business in the country stands still on account of the tightness of the money market. We know what amount of difficulty we are experiencing in the matter of land revenue. Properties after properties are being sold and people suffer a great deal on that account. In this connection, I have to refer to a recent circular issued by Government. It is said that no proclamation of a sale should be published in the Gazette where the sale is conducted in respect of the arrears for tax of a land the area of which is less than three acres.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Has the member seen that circular ?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): That is what I have been informed.

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It is said that the Gazette is gradually becoming voluminous and the cost of paper and printing, getting very heavy. The Government do not lose anything in this matter because for every proclamation a fee of Chs. 21 is being levied. The proclamations generally published in the Gazette contain the names of 200 or 300 defaulters. The cost of the publication may come to only something like Rs. 10 or Rs. 20. What is collected in the shape of proclamation fees is something like Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. So Government do not loose anything. Therefore what I would suggest is that the said circular should be cancelled.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have only one minute more.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Then I may stop here for fear of having to stop in the middle of a sentence.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സർ, ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ഈ സഭയുടെ സ്വീകരണത്തിനായി സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം സുസ്ഥിരമായ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയേപ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ അടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള പ്രത്യാശകൾ എത്രമാത്രം സഫലമാകുമെന്നു ബഡ്ജറ് വർഷത്തിൻെറ അവസാനത്തിൽ കണ്ടറിയേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഏതായാലും പള്ളിവാസൽഹൈഡ്രോഎലക്ട്രിക്ക് പദ്ധതിവിജയപ്രദമാകുന്ന പക്ഷംസ്ഥാപിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന കടലാസ്സ് നിർമ്മാണശാലയും തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റബ്ബർ വ്യവസായശാലയും സാമ്പത്തികാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കും പുഷ്ടിക്കുമായ പദ്ധതികളാണെന്നുള്ളതിൽ സംശയമില്ല. ഇതുപോലേ തന്നെ ലാൻഡ് മോർട്ടഗേജ് ബാങ്ക മുഖേന പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു വായ്പകൾ നൽകുന്നതിനായി മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപാനീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ആശാവഹമാണ്.

സാർവ്വത്രികമായ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം സകല ഗവണ്മെൻറുകളും കാര്യക്ഷമതക്കു ഹാനികരമല്ലാത്തനിലയിൽ വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണംചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഉൽക്കണ്ഠപൂർവ്വം തീവ്രയത്നംചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറാകട്ടേ കേവലം അലങ്കാരത്തിനായിമാത്രം നൂതനഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയും ക്ലിപ്തശമ്പളംനിർദ്ദിഷ്ടമാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു തന്നേയും ആവക കൂട്ടുകളിൽനിന്നും യഥേഷ്ടം വ്യതിചലിച്ചു് അമിതമായ സംഖ്യപ്രതിമാസശമ്പളമായി നൽകുകയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഏറ്റവും ആക്ഷേപാർഹമായിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു ഇവിടത്തെ വ്യയന്യൂനീകരണം പ്രായേണ അപ്രശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ മാസപ്പടിയും എണ്ണവും കുറവുചെയ്യുന്നനിലക്കു ഉയ

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ർന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണമോ ശമ്പളമോ കാലസ്ഥിതി ക്കനുയോജ്യമായി കുറവുചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഭരണാധികാരികൾ യഥാർത്ഥമായിശ്രമിച്ചു വരുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പലപ്പോഴും സാദ്ധ്യത്തിനായി സ്വീകരിക്കാറുള്ള മൈസൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അടുത്ത കാലത്തു് ൨൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ പ്രതിമാസശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ൧൫ മുതൽ നാം അരവരേ ശതമാനം കുറവുചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുത എത്രയോ അഭിനന്ദനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഈയ്യിടേയായി നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഭരണനയത്തിൽ ചില പ്രത്യേകവിശേഷങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായി വേണ്ട ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കർഹതയുള്ളവരെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമനം നടത്തുന്നതിനുപകരം വ്യക്തിപരമായ കാരണങ്ങളേ ആസ്പദമാക്കി അപ്രകാരമുള്ളയാളുകളേ, വിശിഷ്യ അടുത്തുൺപറ്റി പിരിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളവരേ, മുൻകൂട്ടി ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു് തദനുസരണം ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനം നടത്തിവരുന്നു.

വന്യമൃഗസംരക്ഷകന്റേയും സ്റ്റോറ്സ് സ്റ്റോർ ഡയറക്ടർസ്സിന്റേയും നിയമനങ്ങൾ അതിനു് ഉദാഹരണമായി എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടിയുടെ അനാശാസ്യതയേപ്പറ്റി പൊതുജനങ്ങളും പൊതുജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധമുള്ള വർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങളും എത്രമാത്രം എതിരഭിപ്രായം പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. പൊതുമുതൽ പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായത്തെ നിരാകരിച്ചു് ഈവിധം ദുർവിനിയോഗം ചെയ്യുന്നതു് അശേഷം ശ്രേയസ്കരവും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സൽകീർത്തിക്കു പര്യാപ്തവും അല്ലെന്നാണു് എന്റെ പരിപൂർണ്ണവിശ്വാസം.

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദത്തിന്റേ ശമ്പളം മുതലായ വിവരണങ്ങൾ വിശദീകരിക്കുന്ന സിവിൽലിസ്റ്റിൽ ഓരോ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനും ശമ്പളം എന്തായിരിക്കണമെന്നു നിർദ്ദിഷ്ടമാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഉയർന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഈ നിശ്ചയം അത്രശ്രദ്ധേയമായ ഒരു രേഖയായിട്ടാണു് അടുത്തകാലത്തു് പര്യവസാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതാണു് നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മറെറാരു വിശേഷം. പ്രതിമാസം ൨൦൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ദിവാൻജിക്കു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സംബന്ധമായ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾക്കുപോലും വിധേയമാകാതേ ൫൦൦൦ രൂപായും, ൯൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ലാൻഡ് റെവന്യൂ കമ്മിഷണർക്കു ൧൦൦൦ രൂപായും, ൯൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഹൈക്കോടതിയിലെ ഒരു പ്യൂണി ജഡ്ജിക്കു് ൧൨൦൦ രൂപാവരേ

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യും, ന്യൂ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അഡീഷണൽ ഹെഡ്ഡ് സക്കാർവക്കീലിനു ൻ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപായും, ൻ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണക്ക് ഫന്യ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപായും, ഭ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രിൻസിപ്പാൽ പോർട്ട് ആഫീസക്ക് ന്യ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപായും, ഫ ഠ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡയറക്ടക്ക് ഠ. ഫ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപായും, ഫ ഠ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യന് ഫ ഡ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപായും, ഫ ഠ ഠ ഠ ശ്രീപാ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയക്ക് ഫ ഭ ഭ ഠ ശ്രീപയും വ്യക്തിപരമായി ശമ്പളം നൽകിവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ഈ ശമ്പളത്തുകകൾ 2 മെമ്പർ എങ്ങനെയാണ് തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയത്?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയ സിവിൾലിസ്റ്റിലെ കണക്കുകൾകൊണ്ടാണ്.

MR. KAINIKKARA M PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): മെമ്പറിനു സിവിൾലിസ്റ്റു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : എന്റെ പക്കൽ സിവിൽലിസ്റ്റ് ഇല്ല.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : സിവിൽലിസ്റ്റ് ഓരോ മെംബക്കും ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് മെമ്പർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ലെ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must say that these questions do not rise because they are questions of the nature of cross examination or supplying information. So these three questions which were put just now do not arise.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഈ അസാധാരണമായ വ്യത്യസ്തനയം നിമിത്തമുള്ള ഫലം അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടത് മിക്കവാറും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പരിചയമോ രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിൽ താല്പര്യമോ ഇല്ലെന്നു കാണുന്ന വിദേശികളാണ്. ഇവരെക്കാൾ ഉത്തമമായനിലയിൽ ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങൾ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതിനു സർവ്വഥാ യോഗ്യന്മാരായ നാട്ടുകാർ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടായിരുക്കേ ദുർവ്വഹമായ വിലകൊടുത്തു ഇത്തരം ആളുകളെ ഇറക്കുമതിനടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു വിസ്മരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ല. ഇതു വലിയസംഖ്യ സുസ്ഥാപിതവ്യവസ്ഥകളിൽ നിന്നും വ്യതിചലിച്ച് വിദേശികൾക്കു ശമ്പളം നൽകുന്ന ധർമ്മരാജ്യ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്, നിർധനരും നിരാശ്രയരുമായ കർഷകവൃന്ദത്തിൻറെ വ്യയത്തെ വേദനപ്പെടുത്തി വസൂൽചെയ്തുവരുന്ന നാമമാത്രമായ ചന്തക്കരം നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഇതേവരേയും സന്മനസ്സുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു വ്യസനസമേതം പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ധർമ്മവിരുദ്ധമായി ഈ

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ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തു നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന ചന്തക്കരം ഉടനടി നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും ആവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്.

ഈ അവസരത്തിലെങ്കിലും, അനാവശ്യമായി സംരക്ഷിച്ചു പോരുന്ന ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണാത്മം നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യുമെന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പ്രത്യാശയും നിരാശയിൽതന്നെ പരിണമിച്ചു. ടാഫിക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ആക്കിയാളോജിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഈ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നതാണു്. ആക്കിയാളോജിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മൂന്നു വർഷത്തിനകം നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു് ഫൻറു ജൂലായി ഒന്നു- ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും സ്ഥിരപ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും തൽസംബന്ധമായി കഴിഞ്ഞബഡ്ജറ്റു് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുമാകുന്നു. മൂന്നിനു പകരം പന്ത്രണ്ടു വർഷമായിട്ടും ആ പ്രതിജ്ഞ നിറവേറാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ അഭിമാനത്തിനു തീരെ അനുയോജ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

നിയമസഭാസ്ഥാനങ്ങളോടു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്ന നയം അശേഷം തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു് സ്വാനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ അയയ്ക്കുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങളുടെ ഉത്തരം വല്ല തുറയിലേയും മേധാവിയുടെ ശിക്ഷാർഹമായ നടപടിപിശകുകളെ നഗ്നമായി വിശദപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു് പര്യാപ്തമായേക്കുമെന്ന സംശയം ജനിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ അത്തരം ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു് മറുപടിലഭിച്ചു വരാറില്ല. ആ ചോദ്യങ്ങളുടെ ആവർത്തനംകൊണ്ടും ഉദ്ദിഷ്ടഫലപ്രാപ്തി ഉണ്ടായികാണുന്നില്ല.

ഫൻറു ർ മേയ് ഒ വ്യാനു- ഈ സഭയിൽ ബഹുഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തോടുകൂടി പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയം അനുസരിച്ചു് നാളികേരോല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ കയറുമതിത്തീരുവ നിറുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഇതേവരേയും സന്മനസ്സുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഈ സഭയോടു പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഏതാദൃശങ്ങളായ അനാദരവു് പരസ്പരസൗഹാർദ്ദത്തിനും സഹകരണത്തിനും പ്രതിബന്ധമായി ഭവിച്ചേക്കാവുന്നതാകയാൽ ഈ സഭയിൽ പാസ്സാകുന്നപ്രമേയങ്ങൾ ഉടനടി പ്രായോഗികമാക്കുന്നതിനു് സശ്രദ്ധം പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇനി വേറൊന്നു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉപദേശിക്കുന്നതിനും ജനങ്ങളുടെ എതിരഭിപ്രായം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നതിനും പര്യാപ്തങ്ങളായ ചില വലിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാംക്ഷുള്ള ഡിമാൻറുകളെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഗ്രാൻറുകാംക്ഷ വേണ്ടി ഡിമാൻറുകാം തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന രീതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ചില വലിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു

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ടത്തോളമുള്ള ഡിമാൻറുകളും ഗവണ്മെൻറു മനഃപൂർവ്വമായി അവസാനത്തിൽകൊണ്ടേ ചേർക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. തൻനിമിത്തം അവകളെപ്പറ്റി വേണ്ടവിധം വിമർശിക്കുവാനുള്ള അവസരം മെമ്പറന്മാർക്കു പ്രായേണ കിട്ടാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think you are right in saying that it is intentional.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Intentional എന്നുള്ള വാക്കു് ഞാൻ പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ അറിവോടും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധത്തോടുംകൂടി ഉപയോഗിച്ചതാണു്. ഈ ആണ്ടിൽതന്നെ Education എന്നുള്ളതാണു് ഒന്നാമതായി ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are at liberty to say that it is wrong. But to say that it is intentionally done or done for a certain purpose in a sinister manner is not parliamentary.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഞാൻ യഥാർത്ഥം പറഞ്ഞു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ General Administration എന്ന ഡിമാൻറ് ആണു് പ്രാധാന്യവും പ്രാഥമ്യം അർഹിക്കുന്നതും. ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതലായി ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കു് വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടത്തുവാനുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഒരാണ്ടിലും ആ വിഷയം ഒന്നാമത്തെ ഡിമാൻറായി വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം ഈ സഭയ്ക്കു നൽകുന്നില്ല. ഇതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഇതിൽ മനഃപൂർവ്വമായ ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്.

ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളും കാർഷികവൃത്തി ഉപജീവനമാർഗ്ഗമായി സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പൗരാവലി ഇന്നൊരാഭ്യുതയാലും കാർഷികോല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ അസാധാരണമായ വിലക്കുറവിനാലും എത്രമാത്രം ഉത്സാഹമായ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനെ ഒരുപക്ഷേ ഭരണാധികാരികൾ ശരിയായി അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലായിരിക്കാം. എത്രവസ്തുക്കൾ ഗത്യന്തരമില്ലാതെ നാമമാത്രമായ വിലയ്ക്കു സർക്കാർ കരത്തിനായും മറ്റും ലേലത്തിൽ വില്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു സർക്കാർ ഗസറ്റു് ഉത്തമസാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധാപതിച്ചു് പൊതുജനസങ്കടത്തിനു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട കാലം അത്യാസന്നമായിരിക്കുന്നു. മൈസൂർഗവണ്മെൻറിനുവേണ്ടി അവിടത്തെ നിയമസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ കെ. മാത്തൻ ഫർണർ ജൂൺ പൻ-ാ- പ്രസ്താവിച്ച ഒരു സംഗതി ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടേ.

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"You must solve the problem in a co-operative spirit. Government are prepared after this long and continued fall in the prices of agricultural products to set up a Committee to go into the whole question to see how best the difficulties of the ryots can be solved."

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പദ്ധതിക്കുടി ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടിയിൽ പ്രധാനമായി ചേർക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം തുടർന്നു പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഇതുപോലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥാനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർചേർന്നുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഇവിടേയും കാലവിളംബമെന്യേ നിയമിച്ചു പൊതുജനസങ്കടം പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സുപ്രധാനമായ കടമയാകുന്നു.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ നിയമസംഹിതയിൽനിന്നും പത്രാധിപരേഷൻ നീക്കംചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സൽകീർത്തിക്കു മാറാകളങ്കമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടേയും പ്രവർത്തികളുടെ വിവിധ വശങ്ങൾ ലോകസമക്ഷം പരമാർത്ഥരൂപത്തിൽ പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചു് അഭ്യസനവും സംസ്കരണവും നടത്തേണ്ടതാണല്ലോ യഥാർത്ഥമായ പത്രധർമ്മം. ഈ അമൂല്യമായ ധർമ്മനിർവഹണസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിനു പത്രാധിപരേഷൻ ചില സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ പ്രതിബന്ധകരമായിതീരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ലണ്ടൻ പട്ടണത്തിൽ Institute of Journalists എന്ന സ്ഥാപനത്തിൽവച്ചു Carnegi Endowment for International Peace എന്ന സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ പ്രസിഡൻറായ Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler എന്ന മഹാൻ അടുത്തകാലത്തു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വാക്യം ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

"That for this awareness (of public opinion) to be read, public opinion should know the facts. Because otherwise the world would be governed not by reason, but passion. The trouble was that the door of approach to public opinion was closed because in many countries the freedom of the press had entirely disappeared".

മേൽ ഉദ്ധരിച്ച വാക്യത്തിൽനിന്നും പത്രാധിപരേഷൻ ഉടനടി റദ്ദുചെയ്യേണ്ടതിന്റെ അത്യാവശ്യകത സ്പഷ്ടമാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. നിയമവിരുദ്ധമായി പ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തുന്നതിനുദ്ദ്യുക്തമാകുന്ന പത്രങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ രാജ്യത്തു നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന സാമാന്യ നിയമവ്യവസ്ഥകളെ അനുസരിപ്പാക്കിയുള്ള നടപടികൾ നടത്തി അവക ദ്രോഹങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും നിരോധിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

ഡയറക്ടറേറ്റ് വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു് ഇനിയും പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ കൂടുതൽ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കുന്നതു് അശേഷം ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു നയമല്ല. കസ്റ്റംസ് വകുപ്പിൽനിന്നും നമുക്കു ന്യായമായി ലഭിക്കേണ്ട

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ആദായങ്ങളിൽ ഏതാണ്ടം നഷ്ടപ്രായമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെയ്ക്ക് ധാരാളമായി ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുന്ന "ഓക്കാ" സിമൻറിന്മേൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ന്യായമായി ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനു അധികാരവും അവകാശവും ഉള്ള തീരുവ ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള എക്സൈസുകമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശുപാർശയെ ദിവാൻ നിരസിച്ചു എന്നാണ് ഞാനറിയുന്നത്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Does the member make himself responsible for the statement that the Excise Commissioner made the recommendation? I am prepared to allow it if the member makes himself responsible.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): That is my information.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You make yourself responsible?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I make myself responsible. ഇതേസംബന്ധിച്ച് ഞാൻ ഈ സഭയിൽ പലപ്രാവശ്യവും പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കച്ചവടവകുപ്പിനേറയും കസ്റ്റംസുവകുപ്പിനേറയും ഭരണം കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമവും ആദായകരവുമാക്കുന്നതിനും ഇതുകളുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ യഥാകാലം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതിനുമായി സമർത്ഥനായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമാകുന്നു. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടിയുടെ അത്യാവശ്യകതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഡെവലപ്പ്മെൻറുബോർഡും ബാങ്കിംങ്ങ് എൻക്വയറികമ്മിററിയും, എക്കണാമിക്ക് ഡിപ്രഷൻ എൻക്വയറികമ്മിററിയും ആലപ്പി ചേമ്പർ ആഫ്കാമെർസും നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള ഉപദേശങ്ങൾ സ്വീകാര്യവും അനുകരണീയവും ആണ്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, the budget presented by the Financial Secretary will be received with great disappointment by all those people for whose progress and welfare the Government exist. Of course, it may encourage people who hold appointments and who want appointments. The budget clearly ignores the conditions of the country and the demands of the people. It has been brought to the notice of Government very often that the country is passing through a period of acute economic distress, that the taxation of the people must be lightened, that remission of land revenue must be granted, that loans on easy terms must be advanced to the people of the country and the reduction in the receipts on account of all these may be met by reducing salaries. The Government have not done anything in this direction. On the other hand, the budget for 1110 shows clearly that the Government is determined to pursue their old policy in utter disregard of the welfare of the people of this country and the demands of the representatives of the people in this Assembly and the State Council.

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If we look into the budget, we find that the Government are determined to realise by way of arrears of land revenue Rs 5 lakhs of though they thought of realising at the beginning of the year only Rs. 3 lakhs. They find that the machinery for coercive process is working well and that if steps are taken promptly for realising the arrears, some trouble may arise in the future and the chances for the same may disappear. That appears, probably, to be the fear of Government.

Sir, I think, the Travancore Government by its long practice, is able to administer the affairs of the State only during prosperous years. If we look at the budget of 1080, we find that the revenue of the State was only Rs. 95 lakhs. In about 25 years *i. e.*, by 1104, it rose up to Rs. 251 lakhs, that is by more than 150 per cent. If we look into the manner in which the revenue was raised, we find that every new administrator was imposing new taxes in the country, on the basis that such taxes existed elsewhere. We find that tolls are introduced and toll gates are opened. We find the duty on salt increased, income tax introduced, navigation fees levied and market fees collected on the ground that such taxes exist elsewhere. When we tell Government that export duty on raw products does not exist in other countries, they do not abolish it because they say they have been levying it for the last so many years in this country. Government think that their efficiency consists in extracting as much as possible from the poor people. When the income of Government was increasing owing to the imposition of new taxes, enhancement of existing taxes and owing to other natural causes just like our customs duties and other things, the departments claim that all the increase is due to their efficiency and we find that the departmental heads demand increase of staff, increase of salary, bifurcation of departments and creation of new departments. Thus we find there was a smooth sailing and free distribution of the additional income derived until 1104. From 1104 we find that there is a gradual decline in the revenues ; and what is the remedy adopted? When there was the increasing income, departmental heads and the departments claimed more funds for their salaries. When there is a reduction in revenue, they are reluctant to reduce any of those items. They resort to cuts in the allotments for P. W. D. or other departments of public utility. In 1104 we find that Rs 16 lakhs and odd was spent on original works in the P. W. D. while in 1110, it is 3 lakhs and odd which is less than one-fifth of the amount in 1104 and the Government want almost 80 per cent of the staff employed in 1104 for spending that amount. When tolls were introduced, the Government said that more money is needed for constructing new roads and for maintaining existing roads. When navigation fees were introduced, the object of it was stated to be the improvement of the canals and other water-routes. But only a few thousands of rupees are spent for improving canals. When market fees was sought to be levied, we were told that Government would be improving the markets with the amount so collected. We find that out of Rs. 80,000 realised from markets, only Rs, 20,000 are used for improvement of markets. The undertaking made by Government at the time of imposing these taxes was that the

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

money realised will be used for the protection of the tax payer. But they are utilising all this money for distribution among the officers. This is quite unfair to the people of this country. I would just request Government to see what has taken place in some other States.

When the present Dewan was appointed, I did not grudge very much the high pay that is to be paid to him on one ground. Sir, it is known quite well that the people of this country have been protesting for the last 15 years that the administration is top heavy and that we cannot pay Rs. 2,000 as the pay of the Dewan. Many of the people were protesting against the importation of foreigners. There is great communal bickering in the country. In spite of that, all the communities welcomed the appointment of the present Dewan, a foreigner, on double the sanctioned salary of the Dewan, on the ground and in the hope that he will be able to set the Government machinery in proper order that he will be able to meet the present economic situation. I must say that the present budget has not answered our expectations (*Hear, hear*). It is with great pain that I have to say that the Dewan has not been able to satisfy the wishes of the people. Anyhow all that I could do is to hope that at least in the next budget or during the next year, he will take into account the criticism offered and prove himself to deserve the high pay that he is now receiving.

Sir, the argument usually advanced by Government when we urge for reduction of taxes is that the Government must exist, that the Government machinery must go on, and that, for that purpose, taxes have to be maintained at their present level. Sir, what is the purpose for which the Government exists? Is it not for the sake of the people? Why do we have the high-paid officers there? Is it not for doing good to the people? If that is so, are you going to sacrifice the good of the people just to keep the machinery? Are you going to kill the end just to keep the means alive? Are you going to change your head in order that a cap may fit you? What the Government ought to do is to reorganise the machinery and to reduce expenditure. Is it a sound excuse for them to say that they must pull on as they are even at the sacrifice of the people's interests? The present indifference of Government is, I must say, a great dereliction of duty on their part. I would request Government just to cast a glance on what is happening in sister States. In Bhavnagar, for instance, there also the Head of the Administration is a Knight.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That, certainly, is not relevant to the discussion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mav likara*): Is it not?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I say it is not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is not what is taking place elsewhere say, Bhavnagar not relevant?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, but the Knighthood of the Head of the Administration in Bhavnagar is not quite relevant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): His eminence. Sir. I referred to it just to show that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have given my ruling; you may proceed.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Head of the Administration in Bhavnagar, Sir Prabhashankar Pattani, on finding that there was agricultural indebtedness there to the tune of about Rs. 87 lakhs, constituted several Debt Conciliation Boards with the help of which he brought down the indebtedness to about Rs. 21 lakhs; and then ordered it to be paid from the State Exchequer in order to wipe out agricultural indebtedness completely from the land. Unhesitatingly, he also remitted tax to the extent of Rs. 33 lakhs, although the total annual land revenue there is only about Rs. 26 lakhs.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is the member aware that, in Bhavnager, recently, they had a windfall on account of port duties?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Oh yes; but, we too have been having windfalls. The Cochin Harbour is bringing us about Rs. 11 lakhs annually, the recent match duty brings us about Rs. 2½ lakhs annually, petrol brings a decent additional annual income and the recent diversion of the Quilon-Shencottah Railway Sinking Fund is to make a difference of Rs. 6 lakhs in the annual income and expenditure. All these amounts only go to swell the pockets of the officers of Government. But for these windfalls, the Government would have been obliged to reduce the salaries of officers. I may just say that it is these sources of revenue that have served the Government in disregarding our suggestions as to cutting the salaries. I would just draw the attention of the House to what Sir Prabhasankar Pattani states in communication to the Chief Revenue Officer:

> "I am no psycho-analyist; but it is no uncommon experience to find that when one is either unable or unwilling to do a thing, which is otherwise worth doing, one does not always confess one's inability, but by a curious psychological process, one is often apt to deceive on's self into the belief that the thing is after all not worth doing or the time is not opportune for doing it. At times I feel that a similar mental process, though not distinctly recognised, is behind the *non possumus* attitude adopted towards the problem of rural debt redemption. While the sub-conscious mind admits the necessity of debt redemption, the conscious mind is frightened by the seeming impossibility of the task and proceeds to justify to itself its attitude of inaction and hesitancy either by denying the problem or by belittling its seriousness or again by conjuring up a picture of the same conditions being reproduced in a few years after the old debts have been once redeemed."

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Are there first grade colleges in Bhavnagar where King's English is taught?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The member may ascertain that for himself. Sir, in the address made by him to the Representative Assembly there, this is what he says:

> "If I say anything here as an Officer, I fear I might offend the bureaucracy of the world and yet I say that however merciful they may be the Officers can metaphorically be compared to a snake."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Asan. The House will now adjourn and meet again tomorrow at Eleven O'clock.

The House rose at 5-8 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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